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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Everett Golson ready to lead Notre Dame after missing 2013

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UKRAINE UNREST

PUTIN: RUSSIA WILL PROTECT ITS OWN

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
AND **TIME SULLIVAN**
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Accusing the West of encouraging an “unconstitutional coup” in Ukraine, Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Moscow reserves the right to use its military to protect Russians there but hopes it doesn’t have to. The Russian leader’s first comments on Ukraine since its fugitive president fled came as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Kiev to meet with Ukraine’s new government.

Putin declared that Western actions were driving Ukraine into anarchy and warned that any sanctions the West might place on Russia for its actions there will backfire.

“We aren’t going to fight the Ukrainian people,” Putin said, adding that Russian military maneuvers involving 150,000 troops near Ukraine’s border had been planned and were unrelated to the current situation in Ukraine. He ordered the troops back to their bases Tuesday.

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 6

Russian troops fire warning shots near the Belbek air base outside Sevastopol, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP



■ NATO issues warning over Ukraine ahead of talks with Russians | **Page 7**

■ Opinion: Takeover of Crimea part of larger Russian strategy | **Page 13**

Army also on trial at general’s sexual assault court-martial

By **DAVID ZUCCHINO**
Los Angeles Times

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The Army put Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair on trial Tuesday on charges that include sexually assaulting a female officer and threatening to kill her family. The general’s lawyers intend to put the Army on trial.

The defense accuses the Army chain of command of pursuing the

most serious charges to demonstrate that the military is getting tough on accused sex offenders — even though senior commanders have concluded that Sinclair’s accuser lied.

The defense says the lead prosecutor, Lt. Col. William Helixon, withdrew from the case Feb. 10 after failing to persuade the Army to drop the most serious charges.

“Helixon repeatedly stated that the case against BG Sinclair should not

be prosecuted, but that the Army was forcing the case to move forward,” defense attorney Richard L. Scheff wrote in moving for a dismissal. Scheff says Helixon told him he felt “ethically bound” to withdraw. Helixon, who has not commented, is on the defense witness list.

The new prosecutor, Lt. Col. Robert C. Stelle, adamantly denied that Helixon believed the general was

not guilty of sexual assault, or that he had withdrawn from the case for ethical reasons.

“At no time did LTC Helixon state that the accused is not guilty of the charged offenses,” Stelle wrote in a document submitted to the court, adding that Helixon “did not have legal, ethical issues with the case going forward.”

SEE TRIAL ON PAGE 2



Sinclair

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wounded warriors all have their injuries. But what happened to them isn't who they are."

— Judi Boyce, a former Navy culinary specialist now in an internship to become an event planner through a program in Colorado that helps wounded veterans build new lives

See story on Pages 15-17

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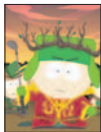
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COMING SOON

Video games

"South Park: The Stick of Truth"



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MILITARY

Trial: Defense argues politics influencing case against Sinclair

FROM FRONT PAGE

Stelle said Helixon left the case while "in a state of extremely emotional distress," caused by "the confluence of a number of factors, most of which had nothing to do with this case."

The court-martial "pens in a politically charged atmosphere. The Pentagon is under pressure to crack down on sex offenders amid criticism that it has been too lenient with senior commanders accused of sexual misconduct. That has generated national scrutiny of Sinclair, one of the few generals in the last half-century to face a court-martial.

At the same time, Congress is debating whether to have military prosecutors, rather than commanding officers of the accused, decide whether to prosecute sexual assault cases. Critics say the current system, in which commanders wield considerable authority over the military justice system, discourages sexual assault victims from coming forward.

Pretrial testimony by the accuser, a female Army captain who is now 34, has provided details of a passionate three-year affair with the general that included sex in a parked car, on a hotel balcony and in a military office in Afghanistan. The captain, 29 when the affair began, testified that Sinclair, 51, forced her to have oral sex after their relationship soured and threatened to kill her and her family if she revealed the affair.

Sinclair says the affair was consensual throughout, and his lawyers say the captain pursued the general. Sinclair denies that he threatened anyone or forced his lover into oral sex.

Defense attorney Scheff, citing conversations he said he shared with Helixon, wrote in a Feb. 21 motion that senior commanders all the way up to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno had concluded that any charges based on the accuser's testimony "are likely to fail" because prosecutors had come to believe the accuser is a "liar" who repeatedly deceived them.

The defense contends the accuser perjured herself on the stand Jan. 7, and lied earlier to Helixon about a cellphone she said she found in December while unpacking boxes from Afghanistan.



Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, left, leaves a Fort Bragg courthouse in January 2012 after he deferred entering a plea at his arraignment on charges of fraud, forcible sodomy, coercion and inappropriate relationships. Sinclair was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

stan. The defense says the phone contains text messages between the accuser and Sinclair. Sexually charged texts and messages have been described in previous court hearings, including the accuser's pet name for the general: Papa Panda Sexy Pants.

According to the defense, testimony by forensic experts indicated the accuser lied about when she found the phone and whether she used it. That, Scheff argued, undermines her allegations against Sinclair.

Stelle, the prosecutor, acknowledged that the accuser's cellphone testimony "does tend to conflict, on its face, with the forensic analysis" of the phone. For that reason, he said, Helixon favored accepting Sinclair's offer to plead guilty to lesser charges because of "tactical concerns."

But any inconsistency in her phone testimony "does not automatically lead to the conclusion that she is lying about those particular facts; and it certainly does not automatically lead to the conclusion that she is lying about everything else," Stelle wrote.

The defense contends the case is going forward on the order of senior Army officers who have exerted "unlawful command in-

fluence." Public concern over widespread sexual assault in the military has made it politically difficult to drop the charges, they allege.

Stelle disputed that, saying there was no evidence of unlawful command influence. The defense allegation, he said, was built on "speculative, hasty conclusions."

The defense also argues that Sinclair cannot get a fair trial before a panel of five fellow generals because the Army and the Obama administration have demonized anyone in the military accused of sexual offenses. Scheff cited comments by President Barack Obama that anyone "engaging in this stuff" should be fired, stripped of rank and court-martialed.

If convicted of the most serious charges, Sinclair could face life in prison. He is also charged with adultery, pressuring two other female officers to send him nude photos, possessing alcohol and pornography in a war zone, and abusing his government charge card to pursue liaisons with the captain.

The general has offered to retire at a reduced rank and plead guilty to lesser charges of adul-

tery and conduct unbecoming an officer.

In a defense narrative not submitted to the court, Scheff wrote that Helixon told him in September that the Pentagon had deemed the Sinclair case "mission critical."

After Stelle submitted his response, the defense team said, Scheff was asked to submit a memo detailing his exchanges with Helixon — referred to by Stelle as "purported conversations."

In a "hold on to your hat" memo, Scheff said he wrote to his defense team after an hourlong phone conversation he said he had with Helixon on Feb. 9. Scheff said that Helixon "didn't want to prosecute the case but that he was being forced to do so." He said Helixon referred to Sinclair as a "stellar soldier" and "a hero."

Helixon volunteered several times to testify as a defense witness, Scheff wrote. Some of the memo, provided by the defense, was redacted to remove references to others involved in the case.

Stelle wrote that Helixon "will testify specifically that he does not question (the accuser's) allegations concerning the accused's misconduct."

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY H. MARC LARSON, GREEN BAY (WIS.) PRESS-GAZETTE/AP

The future USS Milwaukee hits the water at Marinette Marine Corp. in Marinette, Wis., on Dec. 18. The littoral combat ship, the marquee product of the city's biggest employer, is targeted for cutting.

LCS cuts threaten program that helps keep town economy afloat

BY HENRY C. JACKSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To see the impact of strategic military decisions on local communities, look no further than Marinette, Wis.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's vision for a leaner, more versatile military targeted the littoral combat ship, the marquee product of the city's biggest employer. That could mean lost jobs in Marinette, a city of roughly 11,000.

"It's been hanging out there," Marinette Mayor Denise Rueleau said. "I think the community is aware that we have two 10-ship contracts. That it will supply them with five years' worth of work."

Hagel's proposal to cancel 20 of a planned 52 ship orders raises questions about the five years after that. Marinette has a relatively diverse economic base, but its biggest employer is Marinette Marine, which builds the littoral combat ships with defense contractor Lockheed Martin.

About 2,000 jobs in Marinette are directly linked with the littoral combat ship program. The current projected overall cost to the Navy for the littoral combat ship program is roughly \$34 billion.

Ann Hartnell, the executive director of the Marinette County Association for Business and Industry, said dozens of other businesses across Wisconsin and the region, like parts suppliers, also would be affected by the cuts.

"I'm not going to worry until the cuts are final and I think that's the kind of the attitude of everyone I know," Hartnell said. "We know it may be coming."

Marinette Marine has other projects besides the combat ships, but state officials big and small have strongly resisted efforts to cut the program. Last week, both of Wisconsin's senators, Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Republican Ron Johnson, said they would fight to preserve the program, as did the region's congressman, Rep. Reid Ribble, R-Wi.

Ribble said the debate over the program isn't over.

"The future of the (littoral com-



Workers listen to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus speak at Marinette Marine Corp. in Marinette on Sept. 12, 2013.

bat ship), or its next iteration, is far from settled and there are numerous debates and discussions that will be occurring in the days and weeks ahead," Ribble said.

The ships also are built in Mobile, Ala.

Hagel questioned the ships' capabilities against more modern weaponry. He said the ships were designed to "perform certain missions ... in a relatively permissive environment." He said the Navy needed to determine whether the ships had enough protection in an era with more advanced military technologies.

The ships have critics in Congress, too.

At a Senate confirmation hearing for a deputy defense secretary last week, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., cited a 2013 General Accountability office report on the program's cost overruns.

In Marinette, residents dispute the negative assessments. "These sound like versatile ships," Hartnell said. "The Navy needs to be modernized."

The shipbuilding contracts have helped bring about improved infrastructure and commercial development and created interest from other businesses, hotels and developers, Rueleau said.

"We have a lot of things in the works, other retail developments, people who are looking because of the new developments with

Marinette Marine," she said.

To be sure, Marinette is not relying only on its shipbuilding industry. The town and surrounding area have other manufacturing sites that make parts for planes and helicopters, and a paper production facility. A University of Wisconsin campus is located within city limits.

Rueleau says flatly that she doesn't worry about her town even if the proposed cuts to ship orders go through.

"I don't think there's an immediate sense of emergency or concern," she said.

Hagel said the proposed cuts will be included in President Barack Obama's budget for fiscal year 2015, which will be submitted this week. Congress would then have to approve the budget.

Even as the fate of the program is debated in Washington, production of the existing contracts continues.

The town continues to celebrate it. Last week, Marinette hosted a keel-laying ceremony for one of the ships under construction, the USS Sioux City. The ship is scheduled to be on the water by 2016.

"It was a very, very nice event," Rueleau said. "It was well attended. So, hopefully, that is overriding this a little bit."

She added, "My hope is always that people are always going to focus on the positive."

Study questions Army's mental health screening

BY ALAN ZAREMBO

Los Angeles Times

Nearly 1 in 5 U.S. soldiers had common mental disorders, such as depression, panic disorder or ADHD, before enlisting in the Army, according to a new study that raises questions about the military's assessment and screening of recruits.

More than 8 percent of soldiers had thought about killing themselves and 1.1 percent had a past suicide attempt, researchers found from confidential surveys and interviews with 5,428 soldiers at Army installations across the country.

The findings, published online Monday in two papers in JAMA Psychiatry, point to a weakness in the recruiting process, experts said. Applicants are asked about their psychiatric histories, and those with certain disorders or past suicide attempts are generally barred from service.

"The question becomes, 'How did these guys get in the Army?'" said Ronald Kessler, a Harvard University sociologist who led one of the studies.

A third study looked at the increased suicide rate among soldiers from 2004 to 2009. The study, which tracked nearly 1 million soldiers, found that those who had been deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq had an increased rate of suicide.

It also found that the suicide rate among soldiers who had never deployed also rose steadily during that time. The study did not explain the cause.

The Pentagon did not make officials available Monday to discuss the studies.

The three studies are the first from a massive research initiative started in 2009 by the Army and the National Institutes of Mental Health in response to the surge in suicides.

In 2011, a representative sample of soldiers was extensively questioned and assessed for a history of eight common psychiatric disorders.

Traditionally, the Army has been psychologically healthier than the rest of society because of screening, fitness standards and access to health care. Soldiers committed suicide at about half the rate of civilians with similar demographics.

But researchers found that soldiers they interviewed had joined the Army with significantly higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder than those in the general population.

Most notably, more than 8 percent of soldiers entered the

Army with intermittent explosive disorder, characterized by uncontrolled attacks of anger. It was the most common disorder in the study, with a pre-enlistment prevalence nearly six times the civilian rate.

"The kind of people who join the Army are not typical people," Kessler said. "They have a lot more acting-out kind of mental disorders. They get into fights more. They're more aggressive."

The researchers found that despite screening, pre-enlistment rates of depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and substance abuse were on par with civilian rates.

Rates of suicidal ideation, planning and attempts were lower than in the general population but still significant, given the military's practice of excluding recruits with a known suicidal history.

During their military service, the soldiers' rates of most psychiatric disorders climbed well past civilian levels, several times the rate for some disorders.

A quarter of soldiers were deemed to be suffering from a mental illness — almost 5 percent with depression, nearly 6 percent with anxiety disorder and nearly 9 percent with PTSD. The percentage of soldiers who had attempted suicide rose from 1.1 percent to 2.4 percent.

Matthew Nock, a Harvard University psychologist who led the study on suicide, said more than 30 percent of suicide attempts that occurred after enlistment would have been prevented if the Army had excluded recruits with pre-existing mental health conditions.

Nock said he believed the Army should improve its screening of recruits, not to exclude them but to provide treatment to those who acknowledge a history of mental health conditions.

Screening out recruits recruits with mental health issues is not as simple as it sounds because the military largely has to rely on applicants to disclose their mental health histories.

"People who want to come into the Army are no fools," said Dr. Elspeth Ritchie, a former chief psychiatrist in the Army. "They know if you say you had a past suicide attempt, you're probably not going to get in."

'The question becomes, 'How did these guys get in the Army?'

Ronald Kessler
Harvard sociologist

FEDERAL BUDGET

DOD looks to rebalance the joint force

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense released its short and long-term spending requests Tuesday, reaffirming that future defense budgets will prioritize technology and readiness over pay and benefits for servicemembers and their families.

"In developing the (fiscal) 2015 budget, the Department is seeking to rebalance the Joint Force. It will be reduced in size but will become more modern and more ready to confront a broad range of future defense challenges," the budget document says.

Military pay and benefits have increased 83 percent since 2001, and now constitute 35 percent of the defense budget, according to the Pentagon.

"If this area does not take a reduction when the defense budget decreases, these costs can quickly eat into the training and equipping portions of the budget (readiness and modernization efforts)," budget authors wrote.

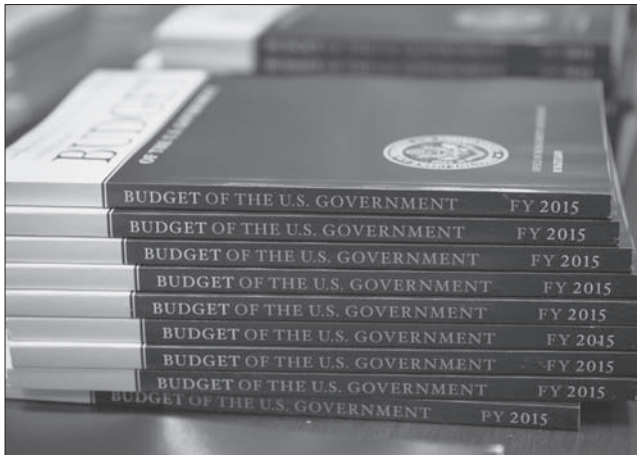
To slow the growth in personnel costs and save \$11.9 billion over the next five years, the DOD wants to do the following:

- Limit pay raises. The DOD is requesting the following pay increases for active-duty servicemembers: 1 percent in FY 2015, 2016, and 2017; 1.5 percent in FY 2018; and 1.8 percent in FY 2019.
- Freeze general officer and flag officer pay in 2015.

- Slow basic allowance for housing growth. Over the coming years, the DOD would reduce the average BAH housing rental and utilities subsidy from 100 percent to 95 percent. The renters insurance subsidy would also be eliminated. The actual percentage change will vary by area.

- Reduce commissary subsidies. Over a three-year period, the subsidies would decrease from \$1.4 billion annually to \$400 million. Overseas commissaries and those in remote locations will continue receiving direct subsidies. The commissary cut will be accomplished not by cutting any commissaries, but by reducing the amount of savings relative to civilian markets that servicemembers enjoy. Those savings will go from about 30 percent to 10 percent.

- Manage Tricare costs. Proposed changes to Tricare include increased cost-sharing and pharmaceutical co-pays for active-duty families and retirees and their families and a new enrollment fee for Tricare-for-Life beneficiaries. (Grandfathered those already Medicare-eligible by enactment.) There would



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Copies of President Barack Obama's proposed budget for fiscal 2015 are set out for distribution by the Senate Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

be no change for active-duty servicemembers.

- Reduce funding for military family support programs. The DOD is requesting \$1.1 billion less for such programs than was enacted in FY 2014.

- Reduce the size of the civilian workforce. The DOD estimates that the number of Full-Time Equivalents will decrease 1 percent, from 755,000 to 749,000, between FY 2014 and FY 2015. The DOD is requesting a 1 percent pay raise for civilians in FY 2015.

- Reduce the size of the overall force. The Army and Air Force will bear the brunt of these cuts. The Army will go from the current active-duty end-strength of 520,000 soldiers down to 440,000 to 450,000 by 2017. The Army National Guard would drop by 20,000 troops and the Reserves would drop by 10,000 troops. The Air Force total end strength would fall from 503,000 airmen to 479,000 by 2019.

- The Air Force Reserve would decrease to 67,000 in 2015 from the current 70,000. The Air National Guard would remain unchanged at 105,000.

- Navy active-duty end strength would remain virtually unchanged by 2019, and the Navy Reserve would drop from 59,100 sailors to 57,300 in 2015.

- The Marine Corps end strength would drop from 182,700 Marines in 2015 to 175,000 by 2017.

The Pentagon will wait until the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission finishes its review before recommending further changes to the military retirement system, which senior defense officials say are needed to save money.

The proposed top-line spending level for fiscal 2015 — \$495.6 billion — is virtually unchanged from the previous two years. It's about \$35 billion, or 7 percent, less than fiscal 2012, when the base budget peaked and sequestration had not gone into effect. When projected war spending is taken into account, this year's budget request is \$116 billion, or 17 percent, less than fiscal 2010, when force levels in Afghanistan reached their peak following the troop surge.

The services are requesting the following funding levels for FY 2015:

- Army: \$120.5 billion, \$4.6 billion less than the \$125.1 billion enacted by Congress last year.

- Air Force: \$109.3 billion, down from the \$114.1 proposed in 2014, but higher than the \$108.8 billion actually enacted last year.

- Navy and Marines: \$148 billion, down from \$150 billion last year.

Over the next five years, the Defense Department is asking for \$2.8 trillion. That is \$113 billion less than last year's Five Year Defense Plan.

Veterans groups and politicians have criticized the administration for the pay and benefits moves, which House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon, R-Calif., last week said are an attempt to "solve our financial problems on the backs of our military — and that can't be done."

But some analysts aren't worried that America's military capabilities will be significantly degraded by the cuts.

There's no need to panic over a falling defense budget, said Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning Washington think tank.

"The budget in real terms is at 2007 levels, and higher in real terms than it was during the entire Cold War," he said.

Korb, a former assistant secretary of defense for manpower, reserve affairs, installation and logistics during the Reagan administration, said the Pentagon is making the right choice prioritizing advanced capabilities over numbers of troops. Moves to limit pay and benefits increases, including shifting some health care costs to users, have long been needed to bring some balance to the defense budget, he said.

"I think slowing the growth of base pay, slowing the growth of housing allowances and basically bringing them back to accepted standards is wise," he said. "But of course everybody will look at that as a cut."

As always, whether Congress has the political will to enact such changes is an open question, he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. harper.jon@starsandstripes.com Twitter: @HarperStripes

President is focused on boosting the US economy

By ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama sent Congress a \$3.9 trillion budget Tuesday that would funnel money into road building, education and other economy-boistering programs, handing Democrats a playbook for their election-year themes of creating jobs and narrowing the income gap between rich and poor.

The blueprint for fiscal 2015, which begins Oct. 1, is laden with proposals that fortify those goals. It includes new spending for preschool education and job training, expanded tax credits for 13.5 million low-income workers without

children and higher income taxes on the wealthiest Americans. "Even in the midst of recovery, too many Americans are working more than ever just to get by, let alone get ahead," Obama said in his budget message to Congress.

"And too many still are not working at all. Our job is to reverse those trends."

With an eye on part job creation, money would be spent to upgrade highways and railroads, Veterans Affairs hospitals and national parks. Additional funds would be aimed at clean energy research, creating 45 public-private manufacturing institutes for spurring innovation and training workers whose companies have closed or moved.

To help pay for those initiatives and others, Obama envisions raising a "Buffet tax" — named for billionaire Warren Buffett — slapping minimum levies on the highest-earning people. Taxes would also be raised on tobacco products, airline passengers and managers of private investment funds.

"The president's budget is yet another disappointment because it reinforces the status quo," said House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "It would demand that families pay more so Washington can spend more."

The Republicans' recipe for accelerating economic growth includes cutting taxes or overhauling the entire tax code, and they criticize higher spending as wasteful.

"If [military pay and benefits] does not take a reduction when the defense budget decreases, these costs can quickly eat into the training and equipping portions of the budget (readiness and modernization efforts)."

2015 budget authors

MILITARY

Question of desertion clouds captured GI's fate

By DEB RIECHMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The case of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, held by the Taliban since 2009, has arisen again as the U.S. and other countries engage in diplomatic efforts to free him. But if he is released, will America's only prisoner of the Afghan war be viewed as a hero or a deserter?

While tattered yellow ribbons still adorn utility poles in his native Hailey, Idaho, others are expressing conflicting thoughts about Bergdahl's plight as the war winds down, with President Barack Obama threatening to withdraw all U.S. troops by year's end unless the Afghan government signs a crucial security agreement.

They are convinced that on June 30, 2009, just a few months after he arrived in Afghanistan, Bergdahl willingly walked away from his unit, which was deployed in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan, adjacent to the border with Pakistan. While they do not want Bergdahl home, they think he should have to answer allegations that he deserted his unit.

Bergdahl was last seen in a video the Taliban released in December.

At this year's Grammys, celebrities were photographed wearing Bowe bracelets. In the past two years, billboards with Bergdahl's face have popped up in major cities.

One shows a smiling Bergdahl, in an Army uniform, with the message: "He fought for us. ... Let's fight for him!"

A transcript of radio intercepts, publicly released through WikiLeaks, indicates that Bergdahl, then 23, was captured while sitting in a makeshift latrine.

"We were attacking the post he was sitting," according to a radio intercept of a conversation among insurgents. "He had no gun with him. ... They have all the Americans, ANA (Afghan National Army), helicopters, the planes are looking for him. Can you guys make a video of him and announce it all over Afghanistan that we have one of the Americans?"

Rolling Stone magazine quoted emails Bergdahl is said to have sent to his parents that suggest he was disillusioned with America's mission in Afghanistan, had lost faith in the U.S. Army's mission there and was considering desertion.

Bergdahl told his parents he was "ashamed to even be American." Bergdahl, who mailed home boxes containing his uniform and books, also wrote: "The future is too good to waste on lies. And life is way too short to care for the damnation of others, as well as to spend it helping fools with their ideas that are wrong."

The Associated Press could not independently authenticate the emails published by the magazine in 2012. Bergdahl's fam-

ily has not commented on the allegations of desertion, according to Col. Tim Marsano, a spokesman for the Idaho National Guard. Marsano is in regular contact with Bergdahl's mother, Jani, and father, Bob, who has grown a long, thick beard and has worked to learn Pashto, the language spoken by his son's captors.

A senior Defense Department official said that if Bergdahl is released, it could be determined that he has more than paid for leaving his unit — if that's what really happened — "and there's every indicator that he did."

Still, it's a conundrum for commanders under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the equal application of the law, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the Bergdahl case.

Eugene R. Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale Law School, said if there is evidence that Bergdahl left his unit without permission, he could be charged with being absent without leave or desertion.

Desertion during a time of war can carry the death penalty. But Congress never

passed a declaration of war with respect to Afghanistan, and neither President George W. Bush nor Obama has determined that U.S. military operations in Afghanistan make this a "time of war" for the purposes of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Fidell said.

Were Bergdahl to be charged with desertion, the maximum penalty he would face is five years in prison and a dishonorable discharge if it's proved that he deserted with the intent to avoid hazardous duty or to shirk important service. A case of AWOL, ended by the U.S. apprehending him, would not require proof that he intended to remain away permanently. The maximum punishment for that would be a dishonorable discharge and 18 months of confinement, he said.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and former Marine who served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, said that it's futile to speculate.

"It's hard to imagine any circumstance where his captivity won't be viewed as time served," said Hunter, R-Calif. "The first order of business is securing his release, and I don't think it does an ounce of good to begin contemplating that far ahead when the focus is on getting him home."



Bergdahl

11 subject of cheating probe at AF Academy

By TOM ROEDER

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Air Force Academy is investigating whether 11 cadets cheated in a chemistry class last month, the academy said Monday.

The cadets have been identified as freshmen, but details on the alleged cheating have not been released. It is the fourth probe of widespread cheating at the school since 2004, including a 2012 incident that left 78 cadets under suspicion.

Spokesman David Cannon said about 500 freshmen are taking the chemistry class involved in the latest incident, with a small number being investigated for cheating. "It's just a handful of cadets," he said.

Cheating is forbidden by the academy's honor code, which also bans lying and stealing.



Courtesy of the Department of Defense

U.S. Air Force cadets march to lunch at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 2012.

In 60 years since the academy's founding, cheating has been the honor code's biggest nemesis, especially cheating by freshmen. First-year cadets were tied to cheating incidents in 2004 and 2007.

Incidents are investigated by a cadet-run honor board, which determines whether the code has been broken.

Cadets who break the code can be kicked out of the academy. But freshmen, in general, see more leniency under current rules. Cannon said freshmen no longer face

mandatory expulsion and can instead opt for honor probation.

First-time offenders who admit wrongdoing get a one-time chance to stay at the academy if they undergo a month-long program aimed at improving their morality.

"To complete the program, cadets must successfully accomplish daily ethical journals, honor projects, a calendar and unit briefings and must receive positive recommendations from his mentors and commanders," the academy says on its website.

Lakenheath unit planning for CENTCOM deployment

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The 492nd Fighter Squadron from RAF Lakenheath will deploy to U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility this summer, according to a Tuesday email from a base spokesman.

CENTCOM's area of responsibility covers 20 countries in Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including Afghanistan.

In February 75 airmen from the squadron conducted a live-weapons drop off Scotland's coast to prepare for the deployment. A total of 48 laser-guided bombs

were dropped off Cape Wrath, according to a news release on the Lakenheath website.

Squadron pilots "would typically attend a temporary duty in the U.S. to meet their weapons employment requirement," the news release states. "Due to sequencing ... (the training) was postponed and was more cost efficient to be held here in the United Kingdom."

The squadron has deployed to the CENTCOM area before. Airmen from the squadron expended 915 bombs and 25,000 rounds of ammunition during a 2007 deployment to Afghanistan.

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F-15 loses its canopy during Okinawa training

An Air Force F-15 fighter jet lost its canopy Tuesday morning during routine training off the coast of Okinawa, Japan, the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base said. The aircraft landed without incident at Kadena, and there were no injuries. The cause of the incident

was not immediately known, and base safety officials were investigating, according to the wing.

U.S. aircraft based at Kadena regularly train over a vast stretch of ocean to the east of Okinawa.

Last year, a F-15C jet fell into the sea in the Hotel-Hotel training zone. The pilot safely ejected following mechanical problems.

From staff reports

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Map showing location near Kadena Air Base, Camp Foster, and other facilities like Japanese Restaurant, Family Rest, KFC, Hamagawa Lodge, and San-Ai.

UKRAINE UNREST



JENS DRESLING, POLYFOTO/AP

Ukrainians living in Denmark and sympathizers demonstrate Tuesday in front of the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen. They condemned recent Russian military actions in Ukraine.

Ukraine: Finance minister says country needs \$35B to get through next 2 years

FROM FRONT PAGE

The U.S., meanwhile, announced a \$1 billion aid package in energy subsidies to Ukraine, which faces a looming financial disaster. NATO members met in Brussels and said the alliance would hold talks Wednesday with Russian officials about Ukraine. World markets rose, buoyed by Putin's apparent efforts to de-escalate tensions.

"We are going to do our best [to help you]. We are going to try very hard," Kerry said in Kiev. "We hope Russia will respect the election that you are going to have."

Tensions remained high in Crimea, with troops loyal to Moscow firing warning shots to ward off protesting Ukrainian soldiers. Heavily armed Russian forces have taken over the strategic peninsula, surrounding its ferry, military bases and border posts. Two Ukrainian warships remained anchored in the Crimean port of Sevastopol, blocked from leaving by Russian ships.

The new Ukrainian leadership in Kiev, which Putin does not recognize, has accused Moscow of a military invasion in Crimea, which Putin denies.

"Those unknown people without insignia who have seized administrative buildings and airports ... what we are seeing is a kind of velvet invasion," Russian military analyst Alexander Golts told The Associated Press in Moscow.

Yet world markets recovered from their fright over Ukraine, clawing back a large chunk of

Monday's stock losses, while oil, gold, wheat and the Japanese yen gave back some gains. In New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average surged 200 points Tuesday on the news that Putin had pulled troops away from Ukraine's border.

"Confidence in equity markets has been restored as the standoff between Ukraine and Russia is no longer on red alert," said David Madden, market analyst at IG.

Speaking from his residence outside Moscow, Putin said he still considers Viktor Yanukovich to be Ukraine's president and hopes that Russia won't need to use force in predominantly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine.

Putin also insisted that the Russian military deployment in Crimea has remained within the limits set by a bilateral agreement on a Russian military base there. He said Russia had no intention of annexing Crimea, but insisted its residents have the right to determine the region's status in a referendum later this month.

Putin accused the West of using Yanukovich's decision in November to ditch a pact with the EU in favor of closer ties with Russia to encourage the months of protests that drove him from power and put Ukraine's future in turmoil.

"We have told them a thousand times, 'Why are you splitting the country?'" he said.

Yet he acknowledged that Yanukovich has no political future and said Russia gave him shelter only to save his life. Ukraine's new government wants to put the fugitive leader on trial for the deaths of more than 80 people



IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Col. Yuri Mamchur, commander of the Ukrainian garrison at Belbek air base, leads his men to the base near Sevastopol on Tuesday.

during protests in Kiev.

At the House of Commons in London, British Foreign Minister William Hague rejected Putin's arguments.

"The suggestion that a president who has fled his country then has any authority whatsoever to invite the forces of a neighboring country into that country is baseless," he told U.K. lawmakers.

Ukraine's dire finances were a key issue in the protests that drove Yanukovich from power. On Tuesday, Russia's state-controlled natural gas giant Gazprom said it will cancel a price discount on gas it sells to Ukraine. Russia had offered the discount in December as part of Russian help for Ukraine. Gazprom also said Ukraine owes it \$1.5 billion.

Ukraine's finance minister, who says the country needs \$35 billion to get through this year and next, was meeting with International Monetary Fund officials.

Crimea remained a potential flashpoint: Troops who had taken control of the Belbek air base in Crimea fired warning shots into the air Tuesday as around 300 Ukrainian soldiers who previously manned the airfield demanded their jobs back.

About a dozen troops warned the Ukrainians, who were marching unarmed, not to approach. They then fired several warning shots into the air and said they would shoot the Ukrainians if they continued toward them. The Ukrainians identified the gunmen as Russian and their vehicle had Russian military plates.

Part of the compound was still being held by Ukrainians.

"We are worried. But we will not give up our base," said Capt. Nikolai Symok, an air force radio electrician holding an AK-47 and patrolling the back of the compound. He said the soldiers felt they were being held hostage, caught between Russia and Ukraine.

"They have shown restraint, despite the invasion of the Ukrainian homeland and a Russian government that has chosen intimidation," Kerry said of the Ukrainian soldiers.

The new Ukrainian government says troops that have overtaken Belbek and other Ukrainian military bases across Crimea were Russian. Putin denied it, saying the men were self-defense forces answering to Crimea's pro-Russian regional government.

Putin said Ukraine's 22,000-strong force in Crimea has dissolved and its arsenals have fallen under the control of the local government. Those officials claimed Tuesday that 5,500 Ukrainian soldiers had switched allegiances from Kiev to them. They were also seeking to move up a vote planned for March 30 on the region's status.

Ukraine's prime minister placed the blame for the current crisis with Russia squarely on the Kremlin, but expressed hope that a negotiated solution could be found. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a news

conference on Tuesday that both governments were talking again, albeit slowly.

"We hope that Russia will understand its responsibility in destabilizing the security situation in Europe, that Russia will realize that Ukraine is an independent state and that Russian troops will leave the territory of Ukraine," he said.

Russia is demanding the implementation of a Western-sponsored peace deal that Yanukovich signed with the opposition last month that set a new Ukrainian presidential election no later than December. Yanukovich fled the capital hours later and ended up in Russia, and the Ukrainian parliament then set the presidential vote for May 25.

The EU's 28 heads of state and government will hold an emergency meeting Thursday to decide whether to impose sanctions against Russia.

John Herbst, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine now at the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University, told The Associated Press it was a critical time for Europe.

"It's a breach of international law, of national sovereignty, by a major power," Herbst said about Russia's actions in Crimea. "We haven't seen such a breach in Europe since the Nazis."

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UKRAINE UNREST

NATO issues warning to Russia ahead of talks

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

NATO's top official again issued a stern warning to Russia on Tuesday but stopped short of signaling whether the alliance would consider sending military assets into Poland following a meeting focused on concerns that the crisis in Ukraine could somehow slip into its territory.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who also announced that the alliance will meet with Russian officials Wednesday to discuss the dispute over Ukraine, urged Moscow to respect Ukrainian borders.

"These developments have direct and serious implications for the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen did not say whether Poland or any other member state had formally requested that NATO forces or any other assets be deployed to their territory following a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the alliance's top decision-making body.

The meeting followed a request by Poland for consultations under NATO's Article 4, according to which any ally can demand

consultations if it perceives a threat to its security or territorial integrity.

In a statement, the council, which comprises all 28 member countries, condemned Russia's continued violation of "Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"Allies stand together in the spirit of strong solidarity in this grave crisis," the statement said.

Last week, Russian forces seized control of Ukraine's Crimea region, causing perhaps Europe's most significant political crisis since the end of the Cold War.

For some eastern European countries, signs of Russian aggression in former Soviet satellite states stoked old fears about a Russia with imperialist ambitions.

The United States has been considering a range of economic sanctions as part of an effort to isolate Russia and persuade it to withdraw. So far, there appears little appetite in Europe to place harsh penalties on Russia, which is a major gas supplier to much of the continent.

In Brussels, a senior NATO diplomat noted that the general sense was that the alliance's options were limited to providing a

'These developments (in the Ukraine) have direct and serious implications for the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area.'

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

few air or ground units to reassure east European allies like Poland, although there was no evidence that they face any security threat from Russia.

"There is a concern that Moscow will retaliate to any move it perceives as truly provocative," said the envoy, who spoke of the customary condition of anonymity.

If Moscow chooses to escalate the crisis, it could shut down NATO's vital overland supply route to Afghanistan and put on hold an agreement to help the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal, the diplomat said.

Other measures could include arming Syria and Iran with sophisticated long-range anti-aircraft and anti-shipping missiles, the envoy said.

Allies usually invoke Article 4 to discuss their security needs, and in some cases it results in the deployment of forces. For example, in 2012 Turkey sought

support after one of its fighter jets was shot down by Syrian air defense forces and Turkish civilians were killed by Syrian shells. The alliance responded with the deployment of Patriot missile batteries to Turkey's border with Syria.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Kiev in a sign of support for the new authorities there.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday described the new government's rise to power as a coup against the democratically elected president who has fled to Russia.

In televised remarks, Putin gave no indication that he had any intention of pushing Russian troops deeper into Ukraine. As for whether Crimea might break away from Ukraine, Putin said that was a matter for local residents to decide.

"It's up to people living in a certain territory, if they can exercise

their free will and determine their future," Putin was quoted as saying in The New York Times. "For example, if Kosovo's Albanians were allowed to do that, self-determination, which according to U.N. documents is a right, but we will never instigate it, never support such trends," Putin was quoted as saying in the Times.

While Russia's next move remains unclear, a military response by the West appears to be well off the table. No western political official of consequence has called for any kind of military answer to Russian aggression.

So far, the only tangible penalties that have been imposed on Russia have been the Pentagon's decision to cancel military cooperation activities and exercises with Russia.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday that the U.S. has suspended its options on the diplomatic front as it ponders possible sanctions.

"So just to reiterate, one, we're not talking — no one's preference is a military action in Ukraine," Psaki said. "That's why we're pulling every lever we can on the economic end and on the political end."

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EREM LUKATSKY/AP

Secretary of State John Kerry points to a bullet hole in a tree at barricades covered with flowers placed there to mark the death of protesters during recent clashes with riot police in Kiev, Ukraine.

In Kiev, Kerry expresses US support

By LARA JAKES
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — In a somber show of U.S. support for Ukraine's new leadership, Secretary of State John Kerry walked the streets Tuesday where nearly 100 anti-government protesters were gunned down by police last month and promised beseeching crowds that American aid is on the way.

The Obama administration announced a \$1 billion energy subsidy package in Washington as Kerry was arriving in Kiev. The fast-moving developments came as the United States readied economic sanctions amid worries that Moscow was ready to stretch its military reach further into the mainland of the former Soviet republic.

Kerry headed straight to Institutka Street at the start of an hourlong visit intended to bolster the new government that took over just a week ago when Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich fled. He lay a bouquet of red roses, and the Roman Catholic secretary of state made the sign of the cross twice at a shrine set up to memorialize protesters who were killed during mid-February riots.

"We're concerned very much. We hope for your help; we hope for your assistance," a woman shouted as Kerry walked down a misty street lined with tires, plywood, barbed wire and other remnants of the barricades that protesters had stood up to try to keep Yanukovich's forces from reaching nearby Maidan Square,

the heart of the demonstrations.

Piles of flowers brought in honor of the dead provided splashes of color to an otherwise drab day that was still tinged with the smell of smoke.

"We will be helping," Kerry said. "We are helping. President [Barack] Obama is planning more assistance."

The Ukraine government continued to grapple with a Russian military takeover of Crimea, a strategic, mostly pro-Russian region in the country's southeast, and Kerry's visit came as Russian President Vladimir Putin said he wouldn't be deterred by economic sanctions imposed punitively by the West.

U.S. officials traveling with Kerry, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Obama administration is considering slapping Russia with unspecified economic sanctions as soon as this week. Members of Congress say they're preparing legislation that would impose sanctions as well.

As Kerry arrived, the White

House announced the package of energy aid, along with training for financial and election institutions and anti-corruption efforts.

Additionally, the officials said, the U.S. has suspended what was described as a narrow set of discussions with Russia over a bilateral trade investment treaty. It is also going to provide technical advice to the Ukraine government about its trade rights with Russia.

Putin pulled his forces back from the Ukrainian border on Tuesday yet said Moscow reserves the right to use all means to protect Russians in the country. He accused the West of encouraging an "unconstitutional coup" in Ukraine and driving it on to anarchy, declaring that any sanctions the West places on Russia will backfire.

Speaking from his residence outside Moscow, Putin said he still considers Yanukovich to be Ukraine's leader and hopes Russia won't need to use force in predominantly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine.

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NATION

Arctic air blast follows latest East Coast snow

By BEN NUCKOLS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The seemingly endless winter dumped a half a foot snow on the ground in parts of the South, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, and many areas Tuesday morning saw something even more unusual in March: a blast of arctic air that sent temperatures plummeting into the single digits.

Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport broke a 141-year-old record low temperature, reaching 4 degrees. The National Weather Service said the low reached early Tuesday broke a 5-degree record set on the day in 1873. It was also a record low for the month of March. Dulles International

Airport — also outside Washington — tied a 1993 record for the month at minus 1 degree.

Both airports broke record lows two days in a row.

Schools and government offices along the East Coast were closed Tuesday or delayed opening. Virginia State Police said slickened roads were factors in three traffic deaths, and authorities in Maryland's Prince George's County said a 60-year-old woman died after shoveling snow there.

Blame it on a return of the "polar vortex."

"That is the buzzword this winter — the polar vortex," said Jim Lee, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Sterling, Va. "That cold air just kind of migrates around the poles and the extreme northern latitudes all the time. The jet stream enables that colder air to move down the East Coast."

That is the buzzword this winter — the polar vortex. ... The jet stream enables that colder air to move down the East Coast.

Jim Lee

National Weather Service meteorologist

tudes all the time. The jet stream enables that colder air to move down the East Coast."

Monday's snowstorm followed a pattern that's become routine. Schools and government offices were closed. Federal workers stayed home — the fourth weather-related shutdown this season. Young adults gathered on the sloppy, slushy National Mall for a semiorganized afternoon snowball fight.

Tourists, who flock to the nation's capital 365 days a year, were seeking out whatever activities they could find.

The National Air and Space Museum was the only Smithsonian institution open, and it drew a crowd. Among the visitors were Russ Watters, 60, of St. Louis, and his son, Seth, 14, who was touring Washington with his eighth-grade class.

"We're trying to find stuff

that's open, so this is open," Watters said.

The storm had a major effect south of the Mason-Dixon line. Governors declared states of emergency in Virginia and Tennessee, where there were hundreds of traffic accidents and tens of thousands of power outages. Nearly 3,000 flights were canceled Monday.

In Falls Church, Va., daredevils took advantage of another snow day by sledding down a steep hill behind an elementary school.

Maya Luera, 11, said she wouldn't be so happy in June, when the school year will be extended because there's been so much snow.

"I'm more of a summer person, so I'd rather have more free time in the summer than the winter," she said.

Spirit of Mardi Gras revelers not dampened by cold, gray morning

By CHEVEL JOHNSON
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A cold, gray day greeted revelers gathering Tuesday along parade routes as the Carnival season in New Orleans headed to a crest with the unabashed celebration of Mardi Gras.

The first street marching groups — including clarinetist Pete Fountain's Half-Past Walking Club — began their marches along oak-lined St. Charles Avenue and into the business district. Later, the floats of the Krewe of Zulu and Rex parades and hundreds of truck trailers decorated by family and social groups wound down St. Charles Avenue.

Rain was forecast to begin in the late morning, but revelers were still expected to gather by the tens of thousands in the French Quarter, where the bawdy side of Mardi Gras was expected to be on full display.

Mark Nelson, of St. Louis, said he would be in the mix even in a downpour. It's his first Mardi Gras.

"That's why God made washing machines," said Nelson, who was sipping on a daiquiri as he enjoyed the sounds of trumpeter Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers, who performed at the Lundi Gras festivities on Monday



PHOTOS BY GERALD HERBERT/AP

Members of the Krewe of Zulu, above and left, march in a parade on Tuesday as part of Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

along the Mississippi River.

Parades were scheduled to roll throughout south Louisiana and in coastal Mississippi and Alabama, sharing the traditions brought by French colonists in the 18th century.

In Louisiana's bayou parishes, riders on horseback would go from town to town making merry in what is called the Courir du



Mardi Gras.

The merriment must come to a halt at midnight, when the solemn season of Lent begins. New Orleans police were expected to sweep down Bourbon Street at midnight in the annual ritual of letting revelers know the party is over for another year.

The Zulu krewe's 2014 Witch Doctor, Derek Rabb, said he was charged with praying for the krewe's good health and good weather on Mardi Gras. "By God's grace, there will be sun," he said.

When out of costume, Rabb works at New Orleans-based En-

tergy Corp., an energy company.

A member of the Zulu organization for the past eight years, he said being in such a high-profile position has been an experience he won't soon forget.

"It's been a whole lot of fun," he said. "It's allowed me to meet some really interesting people."

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NATION



GILLIAN JONES, THE BERKSHIRE (MASS.) EAGLE/AP

Celebrating Dr. Seuss

Kindergarten teacher Mara Woolley makes green eggs and ham with her students at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School in Adams, Mass., on Monday. Many schools will celebrate Dr. Seuss's 110th birthday this week with activities involving his books including "Green Eggs and Ham."

Ohio boy, 10, is suspended for 'finger gun'

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A central Ohio principal said she suspended a 10-year-old boy from school for three days for pretending his finger was a gun and pointing it at another student's head.

The boy's father said it's the adults who are acting childish for suspending the boy from Devonshire Alternative Elementary School in Columbus last week.

The fifth-grader said he was "just playing around." But district spokesman Jeff Warner told The Columbus Dispatch that Devonshire Principal Patricia Price has warned students about pretend gun play numerous times this year, and everyone should

know the rules by now. He said warnings have been included in three newsletters sent home with kids.

Warner said the boy put his finger to the side of the other student's head and pretended to shoot "kind of execution-style."

"The kids were told, 'If you don't stop doing this type of stuff, there would be consequences,'" Warner said. "It's just been escalating."

The boy's father said no one felt threatened. The other student didn't see it happen, but a teacher witnessed it.

"I was just playing around," said the fifth-grader, who had never been in trouble before. "People play around like this a lot at my school."

US: Many abused drugs provided by friends, family

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Most people who abuse addictive prescription painkillers get them for free from friends or relatives, while drug dealers are a relatively uncommon source for those at highest risk for deadly overdoses, a U.S. government study found.

People who abuse the most frequently often doctor-shop; more than 1 in 4 who used these drugs almost daily said they had been prescribed by one or more physicians.

Almost as many said they got them for free from friends or relatives; only 15 percent of the most frequent abusers said they bought the drugs from dealers or other strangers.

Those abusers "are probably using at much greater volumes and simply asking a friend for a pill now and then is not going to be sufficient," said Dr. Leonard Paulozzi, a researcher at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the study, two-thirds of abusers said they used the drugs infrequently and well over half of those users said they got them free from friends or relatives.

Paulozzi and CDC colleagues analyzed four years of nationwide health surveys on medical use of pain relievers including oxycodone and hydrocodone. Those include the brand-name pills OxyContin and Vicodin in a family of drugs called opioids — chemically similar to opium.

The study was published online Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Paulozzi said overall prevalence

of nonmedical use of prescription opioid painkillers has held steady in recent years, at about 12 million, or 1 in 20 people aged 12 and older.

Previous CDC data show overdose deaths involving those drugs more than tripled from 1999 to 2010, with more than 16,000 deaths that year.

By contrast, overdose deaths that involved heroin and cocaine totaled fewer than 8,000, and deaths that involved often-abused prescription drugs that include anti-anxiety medication totaled about 6,500.

A separate study in the same journal presents Tennessee — among states hardest hit by prescription drug abuse — as a snapshot of the problem. From 2007 through 2011, one-third of Tennessee's population filled an opioid prescription each year, the study found. Nearly 8 percent had used more than four prescribers, and those abusers were more than six times more likely to have fatal overdoses than the least frequent users.

The larger nationwide study included data from annual government health surveys for 2008-11 that included questions about use of these powerful painkillers.

"Nonmedical use was defined as use without a prescription or use with a prescription for the feeling or experience caused by the drug," the researchers said.

Paulozzi said the data don't indicate whether friends and relatives who offered free drugs shared their own prescriptions or had obtained the medication in some other way.

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Military Volunteer



Nikki Threatt
423rd ABG

WORLD

Syrians advance weapons handover

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

After missing two deadlines to hand over its chemical weapons stockpile for destruction, Syria has pledged to finish the task before the end of April, the international watchdog overseeing the effort reported Tuesday.

The country has sped up its handover of weapons and chemical precursors in recent weeks, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Two shipments were removed from Syria's Mediterranean port of Latakia last week, with another expected to go next week. Director General Ahmet Uzumcu told the organization's executive council, according to an OPCW news release.

The three consignments would account for half of all chemicals removed from the nation since the OPCW executive board agreed to a removal time frame in November. Syria has since missed both key deadlines in that agreement — one Dec. 31 for removal of the most dangerous, or "priority one" chemicals, and a Feb. 5 deadline for all other chemicals.

International observers have criticized the Syrian government for the slow pace of removal, which the country blames on dangerous ground conditions due to the continuing civil war. Uzumcu expressed hope that the new pace of delivery would continue.

"Given delays since the lapse of the two target dates for removal, it will be important to maintain this newly created momentum," he said in the news release.

With the six shipments, Syria will have handed over 35 percent of all chemical weapons and ingredients, including 23 percent of priority one chemicals, which include mustard agents, sarin and VX nerve agent, the OPCW reported.

The shipments are loaded in Latakia by multinational ships and transported to countries that have agreed to neutralize and destroy the chemicals.

The U.S. has volunteered to neutralize the priority one chemicals at sea via a merchant ship refitted with a hydrolysis system. The ship, the MV Cape Ray, remains moored at a Navy base in southern Spain as it awaits the delivery of remaining priority one chemicals.

Syria agreed to destroy its chemical weapons program and stockpile last year following accusations from Western governments that it had employed the weapons in fighting. Syria was believed to possess more than 1,000 tons of chemical weapons, with 560 tons of priority one chemicals.

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LEE JONG-GUN, YONHAP/AP

South Korean Army 130mm multiple rocket launchers fire live rounds during an exercise against possible attacks from North Korea in Goseong, South Korea, on Monday. South Korea says North Korea has fired seven suspected artillery shells into the seas following its recent series of Scud missile launches.

South Korea reports North fired 7 suspected artillery shells into sea

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea said North Korea fired seven suspected artillery shells into the ocean Tuesday in what Seoul called a provocation apparently directed against its ongoing military drills with the United States.

North Korea also has launched six Scud missiles into the sea

since the annual exercises began about a week ago. It earlier fired artillery shells days before the drills started. It says the exercises are a rehearsal for invasion, but Washington and Seoul say they are defensive in nature.

Despite the firings and launches, outside analysts say the North is taking a softer stance toward the drills this year than last year because it wants better ties with

the outside world to revive its struggling economy.

Three of the projectiles fired Tuesday had a range of 30 miles and four could travel about 95 miles, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

Spokesman Kim Min-seok said the various launches were apparently an "armed protest" by North Korea against the drills.

China: Military will respond to provocations

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's military is prepared to respond to all threats to the country's sovereignty, a government spokeswoman said Tuesday, ahead of the expected announcement of another big bump in defense spending.

Legislative spokeswoman Fan Ying said China supports resolving disputes through negotiations and its 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army — the world's largest — is for defensive purposes only.

However, Fu warned other nations not to test China's resolve.

"But if some countries wish to provoke or wish to damage ... regional peace and the regional order, then we must make a response, and an effective response at that," Fu said at a wide-ranging news conference on the eve of the legislature's annual session.

"The point of this response is, to, on the one hand, maintain China's territory and sovereignty, and on the other hand to maintain the regional order and peace," Fu said.

Other countries should take China's sovereignty claims seriously if they truly care about regional peace and security, she

said, singling out the United States by name.

Her remarks came amid festering disputes between China and its neighbors over the control of islands and sea lanes in surrounding oceans. There has been a sharp escalation of tensions with Japan in the past 18 months over control of a string of tiny uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

China is to announce its latest defense budget on Wednesday. Spending on the armed forces rose 10.7 percent last year to \$114 billion, the most for any nation apart from the U.S.

Militants storm local council HQ in Iraq, kill 6

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials said militants stormed a government building in a city north of Baghdad, killing at least six people.

Police officers said two suicide bombers first blew themselves up on Tuesday at the entrance to the local council in Samarra, paving the way for five other attackers to storm inside after detonating a parked car bomb.

The officers said security forces quickly arrived at the scene, besieged the building and after a two-hour gunbattle had killed all the attackers and freed an unspecified number of people who had been trapped inside.

Among those killed in the attack were three policemen and at least three civilians. The officials said 34 people were wounded.

Former congressman in hiding in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG — Former U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds said he is in hiding in South Africa following his deportation from Zimbabwe because he believes his life is in danger.

He told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that he believes he is being pursued by a secret Zimbabwean death squad because of information he has on American businessmen, especially from Chicago, who are doing business illegally with Zimbabwe.

He accused the Mugabe regime of "trumping up" pornography charges against him two weeks ago to discredit him.

He was arrested Feb. 16, and after spending a few days in a Zimbabwean jail, the pornography charges were dropped on a technicality while he pleaded guilty to violating Zimbabwe's immigration laws.

Analysts skeptical of Kunming terrorism link

KUNMING, China — China said the vicious slashing spree that killed 29 people in a southern city was the work of separatists linked to international terrorism, but the assailants' homespun methods and low-tech weapons — nothing more than long knives — have led some analysts to suspect they didn't get outside help.

Officials have blamed secessionists from far-western Xinjiang for Saturday's havoc at a train station in Kunming, more than 900 miles to the southeast. It is by far the deadliest attack blamed on Xinjiang militants to have taken place outside the region, and has been a wake-up call for Chinese that terrorism can strike anywhere.

Members of the Muslim Uighur ethnic group have waged a simmering rebellion against Chinese rule in Xinjiang, where clashes between Uighurs and members of China's Han majority are frequent. Many observers say the Uighurs are lashing out because they are being marginalized and feel their culture is being suppressed.

Beijing uses its claim of an international conspiracy to defend its crackdown on Uighur dissent, but there hasn't been substantial evidence to support ties to foreign Muslim extremists.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Chinese chafe at media use of 'terrorism'

By Yiqin Fu
Foreign Policy

In Chinese, just as in English, quotation marks can indicate attribution, doubt or dismissiveness. And just like in the United States, terrorism is a sensitive issue in China, where disaffected citizens have at times used violence for political ends. In such an environment, employing quotation marks around a highly politicized word like terrorism can be combustible.

On the evening of March 1, a group of knife-wielding assailants dressed in black burst into a crowded railway station in Kunming, the capital of China's southwest Yunnan province, and slashed travelers, passersby and police, killing 29 and injuring 143, including children and the elderly. Police shot dead four assailants at the scene, and say they have captured all the surviving suspects. Eleven hours after the attack, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency announced that based on evidence found at the crime scene, separatists from the northwest Chinese region of Xinjiang are behind the terrorist attack. (So far, no groups or individuals have claimed responsibility, and Beijing has not released any names of alleged perpetrators.)

Following the Xinhua report, many major Western media outlets covered the event, including The New York Times, CNN, Reuters, BBC and CBC of Canada used quotation marks around the word "terrorism," some in the article's headline, some in the body, and some in both. Chinese Internet users and domestic media were quick to notice this punctuation choice, and a storm

of anger against perceived Western bias quickly brewed on Sina Weibo, China's largest microblogging platform.

While some Weibo users interpreted the quotation marks as attribution to the Chinese government's official statements, which most Western media outlets dutifully took with a grain of salt, many detected sympathy with separatist aspirations in Xinjiang, or what one called an "obvious agenda." Another wrote that some of the articles about the Kunming attacks ended "with the Han Chinese's invasion of Xinjiang's religion and culture," which "turned the carnage of civilians into a political game." (Xinjiang became part of China in 1949, after Communist troops entered the region.) Tech entrepreneur Luo Yonghao tweeted to his 5.8 million followers that "uninformed thugs indiscriminately killing innocent civilians undoubtedly constitutes terrorism." He wrote that he had always admired the West, but "cannot stand" the way Western media first reported the Kunming attack.

Chinese state media did not sit on the sidelines. The People's Daily, a Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, also took to Weibo to demand an explanation from Western media for its "blindness and deafness" and "intentional downplaying of the violence and sympathy towards the assailants." "China sympathized with the U.S. after the September 11 terrorist attack," it wrote in a popular tweet. "But some American media harbored double standards regarding the Kunming terrorist attack. Why?"

A post by the official account of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing fueled the outrage. It did not, as many Chinese had hoped, char-

acterize the attack as terrorism, but instead called it a "senseless act of violence." Almost all of the more than 50,000 comments left on the post accused the U.S. Embassy of a double standard when it comes to violence in China. "If the Kunming attack were a 'horrific, senseless act of violence,' the most up-voted comment reads, "then the 9-11 attack in New York City would be a 'regrettable traffic accident.'" (The United Nations Security Council released a statement late Sunday condemning "in the strongest terms the terrorist attack.")

Some of the fallout from the embassy's statement is due to an unfortunate translation. "Senseless violence," a common diplomatic phrase the Obama administration has also used to describe the 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, which killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya, read as "meaningless violence" in Chinese. Many Chinese Web users, likely already attuned to signs of disrespect, took that to mean the U.S. sympathized with the assailants. The violence did not serve its supposed purpose, the message seemed to say, but the assailants' goals could be achieved by some other means.

These developments are troubling for U.S.-China relations, but not entirely surprising. In a digital age, it's relatively easy for wired citizens of one country to peer into the media environment of another. But old-fashioned cultural, political and linguistic barriers remain. Even — perhaps especially — at times of tragedy, the combination often spurs more pique than understanding.

Yiqin Fu wrote this for Tea Leaf Nation, Foreign Policy's blog about news and major trends in China.

Religious right runs out of steam in Ariz.

The number of Americans who think Ellen DeGeneres shouldn't have the same civil rights as heterosexuals is shrinking fast.

of the year, watched by some 40 million Americans.

Sure, The New York Times is a culturally liberal institution. It's also correct in this case: DeGeneres, sunny, spunky and supportive, is the antithesis of hip or edgy. She's a Middle America kinda gal, far more Peoria than Williamsburg. She makes her living in daytime television, for goodness sakes. And the number of Americans who think DeGeneres shouldn't have exactly the same civil rights as heterosexuals is shrinking fast.

Ross Douthat wrote Sunday that the same-sex marriage battle is over and that religious conservatives await only the terms of their surrender. Sounds about right. There is a reason (beyond liberal condescension, which is real enough) that religious objections to gay marriage are met with rising intolerance. The rationales for opposing it are shabby and unconvincing, and too many Americans have already reached the conclusion that their own opposition to gay marriage was a product of cultural habit, not defensible principle.

Conservative religious reasoning on abortion and other issues has stronger roots. By contrast, conservative moral arguments against homosexuality in general, and same-sex marriage in particular, are hopelessly weak, relying on definitions of

marriage — child-rearing only, please! — to which heterosexuals are exempt. The Bible was shamelessly invoked in previous generations to endorse slavery and, later, to keep races separate. Yet these catastrophic mistakes have made conservatives no less eager to issue omniscient declarations in God's name on gay marriage (and more). Relativism has deep faults, but at least it enforces more humility than that.

Conservatives' selective interpretations of the biblical text are so obvious it seems pedantic to point them out. Among many religious conservatives, the Bible's prohibitions on homosexuality are deemed literal, it calls to relinquish wealth and possessions metaphorical. As the Church Lady on "Saturday Night Live" used to say, "How convenient." Modern accommodations to gay marriage and divorce because, well, because. Meanwhile, modern accommodations to homosexuality can't be tolerated because, well, because not.

Do religiously conservative Americans never stop to think what a miracle it is that the Word of God, as interpreted by themselves, just happens to endorse the precise cultural preferences of religiously conservative Americans at any given point in time?

The attempt by religious conservatives in Arizona to escalate the battle against gay rights was a political fiasco, further undermining the credibility of conservative religious claims. Tens of millions of Americans, religious and otherwise, have made peace with gay equality. Religious conservatives will take a little longer not because they are religious, but because they are conservatives.

Francis Wilkinson is a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

OPINION

Putin running over an already weak Obama

By GEORGE F. WILL

One hundred years after a spark in Central Europe ignited a conflagration from which the world has not yet recovered and from which Europe will never recover, armed forces have crossed an international border in Central Europe, eliciting this analysis from Secretary of State John Kerry: "It's a 19th-century act in the 21st century. It really puts at question Russia's capacity to be within the G8."

Although this "19th-century act" resembles many 20th-century (and 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century) acts, it is, the flabbergasted Kerry thinks, astonishing in the 21st century, which he evidently supposes to be entirely unlike any other. What is more disconcerting — that Kerry believes this? Or that his response to Vladimir Putin's aggression is to question Russia's "capacity" — Kerry means fitness — for membership in the G8?

For many centuries, European peace has been regularly broken because national borders do not tidily coincide with ethnic, linguistic and religious patterns. This problem was intensified by World War I, which demolished the Habsburg, Roman and Ottoman empires. Ukraine is a shard of the first two, and a neighbor of a remnant of the third.

The problems bequeathed by that war were aggravated by a peacemaker, one of Kerry's precursors among American progressives eager to share with the world their expertise at imposing nationality on untidy societies. Unfortunately, Woodrow Wilson's earnestness about improving the world was larger than his appreciation of how the world's complexities can cause improvers to make matters worse.

Wilson injected into diplomatic discourse the idea that "self-determination" is a universal right, "an imperative

principle of action." Several of his Fourteen Points concerned self-determination. But of what "self" was he speaking? Sometimes he spoke of the self-determination of "nations," at other times of "peoples," as though these are synonyms. Wilson's secretary of state, Robert Lansing, wondered "what unit has he in mind" and warned that "certain phrases" of Wilson's "have not been thought out." But they resonated. In the Atlantic Charter of 1941, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill affirmed the rights of "peoples." The U.N. Charter endorses the self-determination of "peoples." Which became a third ingredient, ethnic self-determination. Wilson had sown dragon's teeth.

Lansing said the "undigested" word "self-determination" is "loaded with dynamite.... It will, I fear, cost thousands of lives." While Wilson was making phrases in 1918, a German corporal recovering from a gas attack was making plans. And on Sept. 27, 1938, the corporal, then Germany's chancellor, said "the right of self-determination, which had been proclaimed by President Wilson as the most important basis of national life, was simply denied to the Sudeten German and must be enforced. So Czechoslovakia was dismembered. Still, the war came."

Three months from the end of the war in Europe, the architects of the impending victory — Franklin D. Roosevelt, Churchill and Josef Stalin — met at a town in England to discuss the postwar world, now tightening his grip. Conservatives who should know better have often said the Yalta Conference "gave" Eastern Europe to the Soviet Union. Actually, the Red Army was in the process of acquiring it. This process could no more have been resisted than by Serbia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Britain then were, than Putin's aggression can be.



"You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you," supposedly said Lev Bronstein, as Leon Trotsky was known when he lived in the Bronx, before he made the Red Army, the parent of the forces Putin is wielding. Barack Obama, who involved the United States in seven months of war with Libya, perhaps because the project was untainted by U.S. national interest, is seeking diplomatic and especially economic leverage against Putin's ramshackle nation in order to advance the enormous U.S. interest in depriving him of Ukraine.

Unless Obama finds such leverage, his precipitous slide into Jimmy Carter territory will continue. As an expression of disdain for a U.S. president, Putin's seizure of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula is symmetrical with Leonid Brezhnev's inva-

sion of Afghanistan late in Carter's presidency. Large presidential failures cannot be hermetically sealed; they permeate a presidency. Putin's contribution to the miniaturization of Obama comes in the context of Obama's self-inflicted wound — Obamacare, which simultaneously shattered belief in his competence and honesty, and may linger as ruinously for Obama as the Iranian hostage crisis did for Carter.

This may be condign punishment for Obama's foreign policy carelessness and for his wishful thinking about Putin as a "partner" and about a fiction ("the international community") being consequential. It certainly is dangerous.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Takeover of Crimea part of a larger Russian strategy

By STEPHEN J. HADLEY
AND DAMON WILSON

Vladimir Putin has done this before. When he invaded Georgia in August 2008, Western diplomacy and pressure denied him his ultimate goal: marching to Tbilisi and deposing Georgia's democratically elected government. But Putin seized two areas, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, that Russian troops occupy to this day.

The United States and its European allies imposed diplomatic and considered economic sanctions on Russia. The goal was to convince Putin that the strategic costs of his action outweighed the tactical benefits and to deter him from similar actions. Those measures were reversed in the "reset" of relations with Russia that began in 2009. In retrospect, the measures were inadequate and their reversal premature. Putin was not deterred. Crimea is now in the hands of the Russian military, and Putin is projecting military power into the heart of Europe.

When the Cold War ended and the Soviet empire dissolved, the United States and its allies sought to build a Europe whole, free and at peace — one with which Russia was in its past. But the Russians are increasingly, and rightly, took the lead.

Putin now appears to have had a different agenda: to reconstruct what he could of the former empire but on a Russian model rather than Soviet. He has been cunning and shrewd. His preferred tools of intimidation and blackmail succeeded in keeping Armenia and Belarus in Moscow's orbit. Where those tools were inadequate,

The territorial disputes Putin's actions create give Europeans pause in considering further integration of those countries into the European Union, NATO and other Western institutions.

he turned to force, moving incrementally first in Georgia, now in Ukraine — so as not to destroy economic and trade relations with Europe or the United States.

The good news is that his strategy is largely self-defeating. His occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia ensured that Georgia became even more determined to withstand Russian domination and pursue integration with Europe. His seizure of Crimea is equally likely to alienate Ukrainians in all parts of that country.

But there is a method to Putin's moves. The territorial disputes his actions create give Europeans pause in considering further integration of those countries into the European Union, NATO and other Western institutions. That leaves the door open for further Russian pressure to join Putin's Eurasian Union and to accept increased integration into the Russian sphere.

In the short run, the U.S. and European objective will be to prevent further Russian encroachment on Ukrainian territory and to roll back the takeover of Crimea. That would require Putin to engage Ukrainian authorities, return his troops to the status quo ante and let the Ukrainian people sort out their governance of Crimea.

Even as they work to check Russia's move with condemnations and economic

sanctions, which must take effect immediately, the U.S. and Europe must also help the interim government in Kiev survive and lay the groundwork for a more democratic and less corrupt Ukraine. The important signal of support from Secretary of State John Kerry's visit to Kiev should be backed up by significant economic and military aid.

The United States and Europe also need to develop a strategy for reassuring allies in Central and Eastern Europe — for whom Russia's military incursion into Ukrainian territory brought back nightmares of the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia — and for deterring Putin from seeking again to extend Russia's reach by force. That strategy should begin with a clear U.S. commitment to NATO and to Europe's security. This could include deploying and exercising NATO forces in Poland, the Baltic states and Romania in the near term while halting the drawdown of U.S. forces and facilities underway across the continent. President Barack Obama could meet NATO leaders in Brussels this month to demonstrate this resolve and to prepare a more meaningful NATO summit planned for September.

Second, the United States and Europe should demonstrate that Russia's aggres-

sion has not undermined their commitment to a Europe whole and free. NATO could invite Montenegro to join this fall, extend a membership action plan to Georgia and restate its commitment of the 2008 Bucharest Communiqué to ultimate NATO membership for Ukraine. The European Union could conclude association agreements, advancing integration with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine while also offering the prospect of membership as its eastern partners meet European standards.

Finally, Putin must feel the cost of his aggression beyond what was done after his invasion of Georgia. Condemnation by the Group of Seven (G7) leaders is only a start. The Obama administration could also reconstitute the Group of Eight (G8) without Russia, block Russia's accession to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, ban allied military industrial cooperation or sales and use sanctions under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act to freeze assets and deny visas to Russian leaders and businesses complicit in aggression. The president should work with Congress to demonstrate bipartisan support for these measures. And he should threaten to deny Russia access to the U.S. and EU banking systems as the ultimate sanction.

If Putin concludes he can get away with occupying Crimea, he won't stop there.

Stephen J. Hadley was national security adviser from 2005 to 2009 and is a member of the executive committee of the Atlantic Council's board of directors. Damon Wilson was senior director for European affairs at the National Security Council from 2007 to 2009 and is executive vice president of the Atlantic Council. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Dish, Disney in deal to stream TV

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dish Network and Walt Disney Co. have reached a landmark deal that envisions the day when Dish will offer a Netflix-like TV service to people who'd rather stream TV over the Internet than put a satellite receiver on their roof.

The deal announced late Monday paves the way for Dish to offer live local broadcasts from ABC TV stations and programming from ABC Family, Disney Channel, ESPN and ESPN2 over mobile devices, set-top boxes and other means, similar to how Netflix's video streams are delivered today.

No start date for such a service was announced. It is likely that Dish will have to cut similar deals with other programmers to make such a service attractive.

A Dish spokesman refused to speculate on what the offering would cost.

As part of the new rights deal, Dish agreed to discontinue — for three days after the initial broadcast — a function on its Hopper digital video recorders that allows people to automatically record and strip out commercials from prime-time weeknight programming. But that's only for programs on ABC, which is owned by Disney.

Dish CEO Joseph Clayton said in a statement the deal was "about predicting the future of television."

Anne Sweeney, co-chairman of Disney Media Networks, said in a statement that both Disney CEO Bob Iger and Dish's majority shareholder, Charlie Ergen, were directly involved in carving out "one of the most complex and comprehensive" deals ever.

"We planned for the evolution of our industry," she said.

With the deal, both sides are dropping a legal battle between them over the so-called AutoHop function that had threatened to cut

into the revenue of media companies like Disney by stripping out ads. Dish hasn't made public how many of its 14 million subscribers use the Hopper.

Dish customers will also gain access for the first time to Disney's WatchESPN, Watch Disney, Watch ABC Family and Watch ABC apps, which allow live and on-demand program viewing on mobile devices in or out of the home.

Dish is also picking up a slew of new channels including Disney Junior, Fusion, ESPN Go Line, Longhorn Network and the upcoming SEC ESPN Network when it launches sometime this fall. It also gains access to more on-demand Disney programming.

The companies said they would work together on new advertising models. Last month, Dish announced a technology partnership with local satellite TV company DirecTV to launch a system that helps target political ads to viewers based on where they live.

Dish and Disney said they are looking at dynamically inserting ads into programming based on viewer data, developing new ways of advertising on mobile devices and measuring viewing for longer than the current industry standard that includes the live broadcast plus three days of DVR viewing.

The two sides have been quietly negotiating a new deal since before the last one expired at the end of September.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 5)	\$1.1269
Dollar buys (March 5)	€0.7079
British pound (March 5)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (March 5)	99.00
South Korean won (March 5)	1,044.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.1669
Canada (dollar)	1.1082
China (Yuan)	6.1464
Denmark (Krone)	6.4340
Egypt (Pound)	6.9631
Euro	\$1.3734/0.7281
Hong Kong (dollar)	1.7600
Hungary (Forint)	278.21
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4898
Japan (Yen)	101.43
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2815
Norway (Krone)	6.0480
Philippines (Peso)	44.64
Poland (Zloty)	3.107
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2711
South Korea (Won)	1,072.43
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8834
Thailand (Baht)	32.54
Turkey (Lira)	2.2310

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., non-U.S. British pounds), U.S. Germany, which has your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

March 3, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-153.68
	16,168.03
Nasdaq composite	-30.82
	4,277.30
Standard & Poor's 500	-13.72
	1,845.73
Russell 2000	-6.67
	1,176.36

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	3.75
Federal funds market rate	0.06
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.56

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	62	40	Pdly	Chatanooga	60	33	Clr	Fort Wayne	28	12	Snow	Louisville	38	16	Pdly
Akron, Ohio	29	11	Cl	Cheyenne	46	25	Pdly	Fresno	74	53	Pdly	Lubbock	60	36	Pdly
Albany, N.Y.	30	12	Cl	Chicago	27	18	Snow	Goodland	51	29	Pdly	Macon	57	35	Cl
Albuquerque	63	36	Cl	Cincinnati	38	16	Pdly	Grand Junction	26	12	Cl	Medford	64	40	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	36	10	Cl	Cleveland	25	12	Cl	Great Falls	43	26	Cl	Memphis	45	22	Cl
Amarillo	55	34	Pdly	Colorado Springs	50	26	Cl	Green Bay	20	6	Cl	Miami Beach	84	70	Pdly
Anchorage	31	20	Snow	Columbia, S.C.	58	38	Cl	Greensboro, N.C.	56	29	Pdly	Midland-Odessa	68	38	Cl
Asheville	59	26	Cl	Columbus, Ohio	37	13	Cl	Harrisburg	31	17	Cl	Mobile	25	16	Cl
Atlanta	57	35	Pdly	Concord, N.H.	26	9	Cl	Hartford Spfld	31	17	Cl	Mpls-St Paul	24	9	Cl
Atlantic City	39	15	Cl	Concord, N.H.	64	43	Cl	Helena	42	22	Cl	Missoula	44	30	Rain
Austin	64	35	Cl	Corpus Christi	56	35	Cl	Honolulu	79	63	Pdly	Mobile	37	19	Cl
Baltimore	35	12	Pdly	Dallas-Ft. Worth	56	35	Cl	Houston	57	37	Cl	Montgomery	61	38	Cl
Baton Rouge	64	34	Cl	Dayton	34	14	Cl	Huntsville	58	31	Pdly	Nashville	54	26	Pdly
Bilings	46	28	Cl	Denver	53	25	Cl	Indianapolis	33	16	Cl	New Orleans	61	40	Cl
Birmingham	60	35	Pdly	Des Moines	30	18	Cl	Jacksonville	60	31	Cl	New York City	37	20	Cl
Bismarck	27	4	Cl	Detroit	26	13	Snow	Juneau	58	47	Rain	Newark	38	19	Cl
Boise	58	41	Cl	Duluth	16	-2	Pdly	Kansas City	26	12	Cl	Norfolk, Va.	42	33	Cl
Boston	31	20	Cl	El Paso	72	49	Cl	Key West	34	24	Cl	North Platte	40	19	Cl
Bridgeport	61	18	Cl	Elkins	39	19	Pdly	Knoxville	57	30	Cl	Oakland	57	29	Cl
Brownsville	68	48	Cl	Erie	23	11	Cl	Lansing	56	32	Cl	Omaha	30	19	Cl
Buffalo	25	12	Cl	Eugene	59	49	Rain	Las Vegas	75	52	Pdly	Orlando	81	60	Cl
Burlington, Vt.	22	5	Cl	Fargo	40	15	Pdly	Las Vegas	75	52	Pdly	Paducah	41	15	Pdly
Caribou, Maine	11	-15	Cl	Fargo	20	3	Cl	Lincoln	34	19	Cl	Pendleton	56	41	Rain
Charleston, S.C.	52	38	Cl	Flagstaff	59	26	Cl	Little Rock	42	22	Cl	Phoenix	83	58	Cl
Charleston, W. Va.	44	17	Pdly	Flint	25	10	Cl	Los Angeles	70	54	Pdly	Pittsburgh	33	11	Cl
Charlotte, N.C.	55	29	Cl	Fort Smith	46	25	Cl								

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Base, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Mon., 85, Vero Beach, Fla.
Lo: Mon., -46, Embarras, Minn.

MILITARY



WOUNDED VETS WELCOME HERE

COLORADO CITY MAKES REINTEGRATION ITS MISSION

MAHALA GAYLORD/The Denver Post

Tim Kenney places a sticker on the front window of his business signifying Toad's Guide Shop's participation in the Welcome Home Montrose business window sticker program. Businesses that participate in the program offer specials and discounts to veterans who are registered at the Warrior Resource Center in Montrose, Colo.

By DONNA BRYSON ■ Special to Stars and Stripes

Edward Joseph Lyons fought for America in World War I. His son fought in World War II. “And I’m Edward Joseph Lyons, too, and I fought in Afghanistan,” said the youngest of the fighting Lyons. He was 20 years old when he stepped on an IED trigger on Nov. 13, 2009, setting off a storm of shrapnel that severed an arm and sent a shard of metal through his armor into his stomach.

Lyons didn’t eat solid food for more than a year. Surgeons rearranged his pancreas, and he jokes that scars on his stomach outline a six-pack he’ll never lose, no matter how out of shape he might be. But his wounds ended his Marine career, and Lyons thought his future was over, too.

Until a small town in southern Colorado offered him a chance to serve again.

Lyons, who grew up in Iowa, is one of four young people whose military careers were ended by battlefield injury or by illness who came to Montrose, a town of 20,000 that bills itself as a “no barriers” place where wounded veterans can thrive.

A grass-roots effort called Welcome Home Montrose has hit on a key strategy for wounded veterans, helping them understand their lives can still have meaning and a purpose.

It expands on the military concept of service before self that the young veterans from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan don’t leave behind when they are injured.

The project grew from an idea

that local businesswoman Melanie Kline had while watching a 2011 Sunday morning TV show about wounded warriors from the current wars. The segment featured Jared Bolhuis, a former Marine who returned from Afghanistan with traumatic brain injury, and Todd Love, a former Marine who returned from Afghanistan without his legs and one of his arms.

“There’s something about watching that and seeing Jared’s face and seeing Todd’s face that just got me thinking about how young these guys are, and how many were going to be coming home,” said Kline, who has seen the TV segment countless times since November 2011 and said it still brings her to tears. Kline, a silversmith, has shown it to her neighbors, students, en-

trepreneurs, philanthropists, civil servants and government officials in an effort to galvanize the community. She also uses the video of the segment to raise awareness that while the fighting is far away and the American military engagement is winding down, the wars have had and will continue to have a profound effect on towns such as Montrose.

The volunteer-run project has many forms: discounts for vets from businesses; a drop-in Warrior Resource Center where vets can get counseling and advice on jobs, housing and education; a database that helps volunteers link vets to community resources; and a fledgling internship program.

For Lyons, 23, the programs at Montrose gave him something other than the military to be passionate about.

“Stepping into a community and seeing how welcoming the community is and how willing everyone was to help, it just made it possible for me to come out of the shell that I had been in since my injury,” he said. “I honestly believe that was the best form of

therapy I’d ever received.”

As she built Welcome Home Montrose, Kline found that veterans were among the first to step up to help other veterans.

Often, though, Kline was met with skepticism. Was she trying to exploit those who had sacrificed for their country?

“I ended up getting vetted by a lot of vets,” Kline said with a smile.

She passed the inspection of Tim Kenney, a rancher, outdoors guide and father of four who at 46 is an older veteran of Afghanistan. After the Wisconsin-born Kenney returned from war to Montrose, where he had settled with his wife a decade ago, he organized fishing and hunting trips for his wounded buddies. Now, he’s working with Welcome Home Montrose on its outdoor sports festival for disabled vets.

When Kenney found himself struggling with PTSD, he said Kline “hooked me up with a Vietnam vet who had some PTSD issues,” he said. “Now, he and I are talking.”

Tom Ziemann, a social worker



at the Veterans Affairs hospital in nearby Grand Junction, Colo., said he had seen many grass-roots initiatives to help vets — projects that help them find jobs or financial assistance, or send them on vacations. He said he had never seen anything quite like Kline’s vision.

“This particular project is unique in that you have this community that is coming together and saying, ‘Hey, come live with us,’” he said. “I was skeptical at first. But they’re really come through.”

Kline is the first to admit that the programs are in their infancy. “We’re definitely not ready to say, ‘This is how you do it,’” she said.

But she calls Lyons and his three comrades key to the project — “lab rats” who have helped her and others in Montrose learn what wounded warriors need.

SEE MONTROSE ON PAGE 16

MILITARY

Montrose: Internship program aims to give vets hands-on training

FROM PAGE 15

Lyons joined the Marines straight out of high school. The IED ended the only career he'd ever imagined, and he doubted his infantry experience had prepared him for a civilian job.

Then, he got a call from Jared Bolhuis, a former Marine from Michigan who returned from Afghanistan with traumatic brain injury. The two met while both were hospitalized at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

During his recovery, Bolhuis, who has been a kayaker since he was 5, joined Team River Runner, which introduces wounded active-duty and veteran servicemembers to white-water kayaking and other river sports.

Bolhuis was 24 when he was medically retired from the Marines.

"A 24-year-old with a pension," Bolhuis said, shaking his head. "When they finally told me I was done, it was the biggest kick in the gut I'd ever had."

Bolhuis caught Kline's attention during that interview, when he said Team River Runner "gave me my life back." It inspired her to start Welcome Home Montrose and rally her community to support those who served.

After reading about the new program, the father of a wounded Marine suggested Bolhuis call Kline to learn more.

He remembers calling her, and her saying: "You inspired us. Come out and see what we're doing."

He came to Montrose in April 2012, to help Montrose set up a city-county kayak park. In June, he moved to the town after Kline made him a co-executive director of Welcome Home Montrose.

Management duties were a challenge for him — he has memory loss and other symptoms of a brain injury that he suffered after being too close to two explosions while riding in the gunner's turret of a tank. He learned to make jewelry with Kline's sons, but remains a passionate and compelling spokesman for Welcome Home Montrose and the river park project.

Dream jobs

Bolhuis described his dream job as one in which he could work with vets. He believed that if he found his dream job in Montrose, others might too. His idea became Dream Job, which brings other wounded vets to Montrose to help them recast their future. Bolhuis reached out to his friends to be the first interns.

Lyons, pressed by Bolhuis to define his dream job, thought back to his experience teaching tactics to junior Marines. One of 10 siblings, he also thought he might have a knack for working with young people. And he remembered a favorite high school history teacher that he never thanked for his advice and guidance. Now, maybe, he could pay it forward by exploring a teaching



DONNA BRYSON/Special to Stars and Stripes

Jared Bolhuis, a former Marine with traumatic brain injury, joined Team River Runner and went to Montrose, Colo., to set up a kayak park. He is a co-executive director for Welcome Home Montrose.



MAHALA GAYLORD/The Denver Post

Judi Boyce, a former Navy Culinary Specialist, moved to Montrose, Colo., for a six-month internship under the Dream Job Program, a part of Welcome Home Montrose. Through the program, she has the opportunity to intern at Montrose's City Hall as an event planner.

career.

"If I couldn't make a difference for somebody fighting with a gun, maybe I could do it in another way, with a book," he said.

School officials were among the supporters of Welcome Home Montrose. Lyons was paired with Bill Hamm, a history teacher at Olathe High School, in a nearby town. Lyons said Hamm, a Colorado National Guard member who had done a tour in Iraq, was the perfect mentor.

"After being injured, I was so locked in a shell of not wanting anything to do with anyone who was not in the military, had not been in combat," Lyons said. He was wary that civilians would be thinking, "This guy's gone to war; we don't know what he's going to do, what he's capable of."

Lyons said Hamm also reminded him of that favorite high school

history teacher. Both "really love history and understand it and learned from it."

For months, Lyons was an observer in Hamm's class of 15- and 16-year-olds. Then, Hamm gave Lyons a chance to stand in front of the class, to teach a unit on Iwo Jima.

Lyons admits that he overprepared for his hourlong class. He consulted Department of Defense archives, watched documentaries and interviewed Iwo Jima survivors he met in Montrose. He brought maps and medals to class, and his own Purple Heart citation.

He wanted the students to find purpose in history.

"It's not just killing people because they made us angry," he said. "It was actually for a bigger reason, for freedom and liberty, to stop tyranny. If it goes unap-

preciated, it won't be long before we don't have freedoms."

Lyons' commitment to history grew in Montrose. But as his six months drew to a close last year, he was uncertain that working with young people was for him. He needed more time to decide, and Welcome Home Montrose decided to extend the internships. Hamm was being deployed to Afghanistan, so Lyons was paired with another high school teacher.

Earlier this year, Lyons moved to Fort Collins, Colo., to study political science at Colorado State University.

He said he learned a lot about himself in Montrose.

"I was in a whirlwind of a mess when I first got here," he said. "I wasn't ready to accept that I was out of the military."

"I learned that things can change."

Life in Montrose, he said, "helped bring me into my own."

No fear of failure

Judi Boyce, another friend who Bolhuis made in the hospital and persuaded to come to Montrose, said the program gave her a chance to think about herself in new ways, "without being scared of failure."

"You're a volunteer. They can't fire you," she said. "It can help you truly realize where your strengths and weaknesses are."

Boyce, a New Jersey native, joined the Navy after graduating

from high school, in part to get training to become a personal chef.

She had other reasons to join. Placed in foster care at 7 and adopted at 14, she said she never really felt nurtured. Boyce said she remembered filling out forms that included a question about why she had enlisted.

"I wrote, 'To have a sense of family.'"

Two years after joining, she suffered a stroke, the result of an until-then undetected disorder that had constricted arteries in her brain. After two surgeries, she had to relearn to walk. She retired from the Navy at 24, with impaired vision, memory loss and periodic severe headaches. She is unable to drive and has a service dog.

"I'm 24 and I have all these things that I can't do normally anymore," she said. "But it's just one of those things you have to overcome."

"Wounded warriors all have their injuries. But what happened to them isn't who they are."

Boyce hadn't thought much about her future as she ended her Navy career. When Bolhuis asked, she quickly thought about event planning.

Her memory problems make it hard for her to keep track of a recipe, particularly in a high-pressure professional kitchen. But she thought she could bring some of her cooking experience to planning events and parties.

SEE MONTROSE ON PAGE 17

"I was in a whirlwind of a mess when I first got here. I wasn't ready to accept that I was out of the military. I learned that things can change."

Edward Joseph Lyons
wounded veteran in Montrose, Colo.

MILITARY



DONNA BRYSON/Special to Stars and Stripes

Joshua Heck came to Montrose, Colo., after spending more than three years in military hospitals. The former Marine, who had a stroke soon after he completed basic training, did his Dream Job internship on an organic farm and now works there.

Montrose: Program's founder looking ahead to new group of intern recruits

FROM PAGE 16

Her first stop in Montrose was living and working at an assisted living facility. Boyce found the setting too much like the hospitals where she'd spent years, and found living with patients with memory problems only made her more sensitive about her own. She started working at city hall, a better fit, where she helped organize staff picnics, children's parties and a dodge ball tournament as a fundraiser for foster children.

Boyce didn't stay in Montrose beyond her six months. Soon after arriving, her boyfriend, a fellow archer she met at a sports tournament for wounded warriors, asked her to marry him. In her last weeks in Montrose, the main event she was planning was her wedding. Boyce moved to her fiancé's home in Wisconsin and keeps in touch with the project through Facebook.

"I'm taking away the ability to help other wounded warriors," she said before she left.

'Manic motivation'

Joshua Heck, 25, the fourth veteran recruited to come to Welcome Home Montrose, smiles now at the skepticism he had when Bolhuis called and asked, "What would you do if I told you I wanted to move you to Colorado in six months and set you up in

whatever dream job you want?"

"I was [a] smartass," recalled the former Marine, who also became friends with Bolhuis in the hospital.

"I said, 'Sure, you let me know when you have that all set up.' I ate my words, obviously. And still am, every day."

By the time Bolhuis presented him with the dream job possibility, Heck had been released after 3½ years in military hospitals. He had suffered a stroke soon after finishing Marine basic training. Doctors don't know why someone so young had suffered a stroke, which was followed by grand mal seizures. Among the lingering effects for Heck, now retired, is memory loss.

Heck had tried college before the Marines. He left graphic design studies to join the military in hopes that would give him purpose. After the stroke narrowed his options, he'd decided his wish was to live independently and be in charge of his own time. Farming or gardening made sense.

"You can't eat money," he said. "And it [money] doesn't make up for lost time with friends."

Bolhuis sent him a list of organic farms in the Montrose area. Heck settled on a vegetable operation that sells its wares at local markets and encourages sharing produce and ideas with other small farmers. His internship turned into a full-time job.

Heck has married since coming to Montrose. His wife, a graphic designer he met in Pennsylvania after his stroke, has joined him, finding work in a local gallery. Heck wants to build a house and grow mushrooms to sell at markets and to local chefs.

Farming can be a mission, a channel for what Heck describes as a "fierce, almost manic motivation that never goes away for a lot of servicemen. With a garden, trying to produce food all year long, you're never done."

"Healing is painful," Heck said. "You can't heal in a concrete building with windows with chicken wire in them. You can't

develop as a human being unless you're treated as one."

What's next

Kline said the four first interns stressed to her that Montrose was a safe place for them to re-enter civilian life. She wants to recreate that for the next crop, and do better. She knows now, for example, that the interns should be checking in regularly with a mental health professional. Montrose, like small towns across America, lacks mental health services, and the nearest VA medical center is an hour's drive away.

"When we first started, we were pretty naive," she said. "We were enthusiastic, but we were naive. We've learned a lot about the services that we need here."

She's also learned a lot about her community's willingness to help. In 2013, 225 individuals and companies made donations to the project, and 33 businesses were offering discounts to vets under a Welcome Home Montrose program.

More than 500 vets were registered at the drop-in center last year. They participated in PTSD and other support groups and tai chi classes, sat down with counselors who hold regular hours at the center, checked out all-terrain wheel chairs to go hunting or fishing, took advantage of a job board and resume file that connect local businesses with potential employees, or just gathered once a week for coffee and homemade pastries donated by townspeople. A weekly coffee for military spouses was launched last year, and 70 spouses signed up.

Last year, Montrose put on an outdoor sports festival for 20 medically retired vets. More than 210 people and more than 100 businesses, service groups and churches volunteered to help. Montrose offered so many activities, from tai chi at sunrise to drum circles in the evening, that the vets couldn't get to them all.

"It was mind-boggling to manage, but it was so amazing to see the community coming together for the veterans," Kline said.

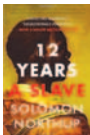
Another outdoor festival is scheduled this summer. Also this year, Kline will erect a memorial wall at the center and finalize plans for recruiting and hosting a second group of interns.

"Everybody wants to do something," she said of the community. "You just have to give them something to do."

Joshua Heck
former Marine in Montrose, Colo.

'Healing is painful. You can't heal in a concrete building with windows with chicken wire in them. You can't develop as a human being unless you're treated as one.'

FACES



Book's sales jump after Oscar win

"12 Years a Slave" is getting a post-Oscar bump—for the book on which the film was based.

The 19th-century memoir by ex-slave Solomon Northup jumped from No. 326 on Amazon.com before Sunday night's Academy Awards ceremony to No. 16 on Tuesday morning.

The film was directed by Steve McQueen and stars Chiwetel Ejiofor. It was among last year's most highly praised releases and won the Academy Award for best picture. It was the first film directed by a black person to win best picture.

From The Associated Press



Jay Z's Roc Nation to manage Kanye

Jay Z's Roc Nation will now manage Kanye West, left, the management company and West's label announced Monday.

Roc Nation will work alongside West's production house, DONDA, on managing the superstar rapper's music endeavors. Izvor Zivkovic will

continue to manage West as well. Roc Nation manages Rihanna, Shakira, Timbaland and other acts.

West burst on the music scene as a producer on Jay Z's albums, and the two eventually collaborated on various songs and albums.

From The Associated Press

Beck to the future

After long stretch of inactivity, musician to drop 2 albums in 2014

By CHRIS TALBOTT

The Associated Press

Beck Hansen really doesn't believe a musician has the right to complain. It's something of an occupational requirement.

"Nobody wants to hear it," he says. "That's not what we're here for. We're here to play music and have a good time."

So it might come as a surprise to many fans that Hansen suffered a spinal injury that kept him from making music in the usual ways for a significant portion of the past decade. He doesn't talk about it a lot and certainly doesn't want to dwell. He found other ways to create as a producer and songwriter during this period, but he will admit he feels a great sense of release now that he has finished "Morning Phase," just the second album he's completed and released in the past 10 years.

"I was just waiting until I felt like I was able to do what I used to do," the 43-year-old Hansen said. "There's not anything particularly unique about it, but it's something that I did learn from. It was a difficult experience, but in any kind of difficulty there are positives. And I think that's particularly what the record is about: How to come out of some sort of travail and difficulty and find some sense of light again and life continuing. Once you've seen some things that are darker and you know that darkness is there, how do you embrace the other side of life?"

Beck's embracing it with a period of great creativity and will soon return to the studio to record a second album he plans to release later this year. At times while injured he was unable to hold conventional instruments, turning to substitutes, like a hand-held keyboard to write and record. He's returned to live performance over the past few years and feels he's been transformed by the experience in ways he struggles to explain—as much metaphysical as physical.

"There's a point where a kind of

pessimistic view can take hold and be a means of survival," Hansen said. "And I'm sure anybody encounters those forks in the road where you can go one way or the other, and believe me life is nudging you toward the other direction. It can again and again nudge you toward a darker view of things, and this record in some sense was grappling with that and taking a long hard look at everything and trying to find something redemptive."

He's been left with a newfound sense of patience, he says, and the simple act of putting out an album brings him great joy.

"Morning Phase" really began in 2008 when Beck came to Nashville to record country-flavored songs that he ended up shelving because he didn't feel the tone was correct at the time. He experienced a delay in his plans for a return to the studio, so he reformed the band he leaned on during his most creative period and attacked those Nashville songs from a different angle.

The result sounds very much in mood and color like "Sea Change," the album that revealed Beck's ability to filter deep emotion after playing the sly trickster for much of his early career.

"Even if I don't see them for a number of years, when we get together it's the same," Hansen said of the band, which includes guitarist Smokey Hornel and drummer Joey Waronker. "There's part of us that's worn and grown to fit together, you know, it's part of how we play music. So it was really interesting putting that puzzle back together, how well it fit."

A spinal injury kept Beck from making music by his usual means for a significant portion of the past decade. He's making up for lost time: "Morning Phase" was released on Feb. 25, and he's preparing to record a second album slated for release this year.

Courtesy of Nasty Little Man



Viewership for Oscars is biggest in 10 years

Los Angeles Times

Sunday night's Oscars ceremony, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres, got its biggest TV audience in 10 years.

The 86th Academy Awards, on ABC, drew 55.3 million viewers on average, according to Nielsen, up about 6 percent from last year's show, hosted by Seth MacFarlane (40.4 million).

The Oscars viewership record was set in 1998, when the gala drew 55.3 million people. That was the year the blockbuster "Titanic" won 11 Oscars, including best picture.

This marks the third year in a row the show's total audience has grown.

The broadcast was virtually flat with last year among advertiser-desired 18-to-49-year-olds.

The 3-hour, 11-minute telecast notched a rating of 12.9 in the 18-to-49 demographic, in which a ratings point equals about 1.3 million viewers. Last year's show nabbed a rating of 13.

"Gravity" led the night with seven awards, including best director for Alfonso Cuarón, and "Dallas Buyers Club" scored three, including best supporting actor for Jared Leto and best actor for Matthew McConaughey. "12 Years a Slave" won best picture. DeGeneres' performance featured a much tweeted-about selfie taken with a cluster of stars, and at one point she brought in pizza for audience members. The comedian last hosted in 2007.

According to Nielsen's Social Guide, the telecast drew 11.2 million tweets from 2.8 million users of the social media site.



Chelsea Handler

Handler's Oscar tweets draw accusations of racism

The Associated Press

Comedian Chelsea Handler drew accusations of racism after she was invited to take over The Huffington Post's Twitter account during Sunday night's Academy Awards and repeatedly touted her upcoming book, "Uganda Be Kid-

ding Me," whenever "12 Years a Slave" received an Oscar.

In one, she tweeted, "Congratulations #12yearsaslave Go to Africa or buy #ugandabekiddingme http://amzn.to/1delka9 #theadofthecurve #Oscars."

People responded via Twitter

with words like "disgraceful," "offensive" and "racist."

Huffington Post senior executive director Perri Dorset said the site was upfront about the Twitter takeover and has invited celebrities to do so in the past, adding, "the views are theirs not ours."

Handler also took a swipe at Kenyan supporting actress winner Lupita Nyong'o, tweeting, "#AngelinaJolie just filed adoption papers #lupitanyong'o #Oscars—@chelseahandler."

Handler's publicist did not return messages seeking comment.

Stripes

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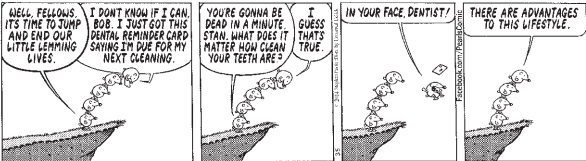
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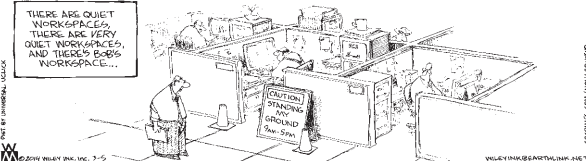
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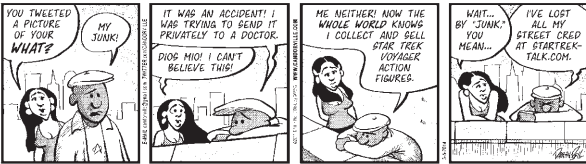
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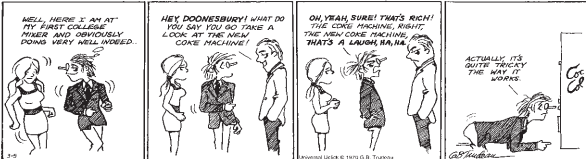
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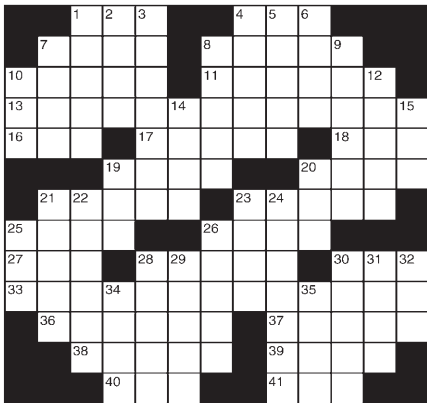
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Bear hair
- 4 Ashy
- 7 July 4, 1776, e.g.
- 8 Impel
- 10 Put in a carton
- 11 Tortoni ingredient
- 13 "Old Folks at Home" penner
- 16 DDE opponent
- 17 Rags-to-riches
- 18 — Tin Tin
- 19 Edges
- 20 Second letter
- 21 Fairy tale family
- 23 Deschanel of "New Girl"
- 25 Chester — Arthur
- 26 Clinton Cabinet member
- 27 Decay
- 28 Michelangelo masterpiece
- 30 Donkey
- 33 Guardians of a sort
- 36 "Castle" concern
- 37 One type of keyboard ...
- 38 ... and another
- 39 Easter emblem
- 40 Flamenco cheer
- 41 CSA VIP

DOWN

- 1 Some office printouts
- 2 Miners' sch.
- 3 Lucille Ball trademark
- 4 "The Bonfire of the Vanities" writer
- 5 Knight-clothes?
- 6 Sgt. and Cpl.
- 7 Be too fond
- 8 Vampire's features
- 9 Main course
- 10 Merit badge org.
- 12 God
- 14 Shade providers
- 15 Genetic matter
- 19 Skedaddled
- 20 Greet the villain
- 21 Actor Orlando
- 22 Really, really likes
- 23 Catherine — Jones
- 24 Continually winning
- 25 "Bow-wow"
- 26 Copy, for short
- 28 Go by bike
- 29 "Goodnight" girl
- 30 Viewpoint
- 31 Remain
- 32 IRS ID
- 34 21-Across, e.g.
- 35 Great Lake

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-5

CRYPTOQUIP

TIQMPNI FSMF NPYIVSIVD
MJND SMYIYLN FDMQF
JXOI M NYDXJIG OXG, UI

MJJ OLDU SXW MN TVMFWML.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DURING A VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, MY HANDS GOT VERY DRY, SO I APPLIED SOME LAOTIAN LOTION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals L

ClassifiedsEUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9013/0912 or DSN: 583-9013/9012

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title at the World Figure Skating Championships held in Hartford, Conn.

NHL

Roundup

Chiasson delivers as Stars win

Dallas coach Ruff wins 600th against former team Buffalo

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Alex Chiasson needed a break, and he got one. The result was a game-winning, power-play goal.

Chiasson snapped a third-period tie and lifted the Dallas Stars to a 3-2 victory on Monday night.

Stars coach Lindy Ruff earned his 600th NHL win, and he got it against his former team. Ruff's first 571 wins came with Buffalo.

"It means I'm on my way to 700, hopefully," Ruff said. "It means that I've had a lot of good players and good teams. These wins belong to those players."

Chiasson's goal was his first in 13 games, and he wasn't the only player who broke a scoring drought. Alex Goligoski put Dallas ahead briefly 2-1 with his third goal this season after 48 games without one.

"He has looked refreshed and energized," Ruff said of Chiasson. "He needed one to go in."

Jordie Benn hadn't scored until he tied the game 1-1 in the second period with his first goal in 12 games. He knew what a victory would mean for Ruff.

"Obviously, it's huge to get that win for him," he said. "He's a very decorated guy, a great guy and a great coach."

The Stars opened a two-point lead over their closest pursuers for eighth place in the Western Conference. Dallas (29-22-10) has 68 points. Winnipeg and Vancouver both have 66.

Tyler Ennis scored twice for Buffalo, with Matt Moulson assisting on both goals. The second got the Sabres even at 3:23 of the third.

Ray Whitney had two assists for the Stars after moving during the game on to a line with Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin, Dallas' two leading scorers.

Chiasson, a rookie forward, was frustrated because Sabres goalie Jonas Enroth stopped six of his team-high seven shots on goal.

Then, at 10:25 of the third period, Chiasson skated in front of Enroth and deflected Jamie Benn's slap shot from the blue line into the net for the winning goal.

What Chiasson couldn't do with his stick, he accomplished with his leg.

"Sometimes you're going to need help from other people, but we need Jamie," he said. "Look at the first goal, Jamie was right



LM OTEN/AP

Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen, right, blocks a shot by Buffalo Sabres center Cody Hodgson during the third period of Monday's game at American Airlines Center in Dallas. The Stars won 3-2.



LM OTEN/AP

Dallas Stars coach Lindy Ruff earned his 600th victory on Monday over his former team, the Buffalo Sabres. Ruff won 571 games with Buffalo over the first 15 years of his NHL coaching career.

there (screening Enroth). And then on the last one, his shot hit me in the shin guard."

Enroth complained, but the goal stood.

"Something happened where you couldn't really see on the replay," the goalie said, "but the ref told me it was (teammate Mike) Weber that kind of got his stick in my glove or whatever happened there."

Chiasson said that the Stars' 19-day Olympics break helped him.

"I went through a phase where

I couldn't see the light out of the tunnel," he said. "It seems like the break came at the right time. I put some weight back on, and I felt rested."

Enroth made 36 saves and Dallas' Kari Lehtonen had 21.

Wild 3, Flames 2: Jared Spurgeon's power-play goal in the third period helped host Minnesota beat Calgary and notch its season-high fifth straight win.

Kyle Brodziak and Zach Parise also scored and rookie Darcy Kuemper stopped 21 shots during his 15th start in a row.

Blue Jackets 2, Maple Leafs 1: Defenseman Dalton Prout and Artem Anisimov scored second-period goals as visiting Columbus held off Toronto.

Prout and Anisimov scored less than three minutes apart for Columbus. Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves in the win. The Blue Jackets completed a three-game season sweep of Toronto.

Kings 2, Canadiens 1: Jeff Carter scored his 250th career NHL goal on a power play and Jonathan Quick made 17 saves to remain unbeaten since the Olympic break as host Los Angeles beat Montreal for its fifth straight win.

Jake Muzzin scored an early goal for the Kings, who have won four games in six days since the break to solidify their playoff position in the Pacific Division, 10 points ahead of fourth-place Vancouver.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Boston	61	34	22	75
Montreal	61	34	22	75
Tampa Bay	61	34	22	75
Toronto	61	34	22	75
Detroit	61	34	22	75
Ottawa	61	34	22	75
Buffalo	61	34	22	75

Metropolitan Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Pittsburgh	62	32	24	67
Philadelphia	62	32	24	67
N.Y. Rangers	62	32	24	67
Washington	62	32	24	67
Carolina	62	32	24	67
N.Y. Islanders	62	32	24	67
N.Y. Jets	62	32	24	67

Western Conference

Central Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts
St. Louis	60	40	14	86
Colorado	61	39	17	85
Minnesota	62	34	21	75
Dallas	61	29	22	68
Winnipeg	62	30	26	66
Nashville	61	26	25	62

Pacific Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Anaheim	62	43	14	91
San Jose	62	39	17	84
Los Angeles	63	35	22	76
Vancouver	63	28	25	66
Phoenix	61	27	23	61
Calgary	61	23	31	53
Edmonton	62	20	34	48

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Monday's games
Columbus 2, Buffalo 2
Dallas 3, Calgary 2
Los Angeles 2, Montreal 1

Tuesday's games
Florida at Boston
Detroit at New Jersey
Dallas at Columbus
Colorado at Chicago
Tampa Bay at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Nashville
N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg
Vancouver at Phoenix
Ottawa at Edmonton
Carolina at San Jose
Winnipeg at Philadelphia
Ottawa at Anaheim
Montreal at Anaheim

Wednesday's games
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Philadelphia
Ottawa at Calgary
Montreal at Anaheim

Monday
Kings 2, Canadiens 1
Montreal 1, 0-0-1
Los Angeles 1, 1-0-2

First Period—Los Angeles, Muzzin 5 (Toffoli, Williams), 1:54. 2, Montreal, Enroth 10 (Pacioretty, Deshaunais), 14:45.
Second Period—Los Angeles, Carter 22 (Kopitar, Martinez), 4:14 (pp).
Third Period—Los Angeles, 5-5-8-18.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 3; Los Angeles 5 of 12.
Goals—Montreal, Bouda 8-5-2 (22 shots-20 saves). Los Angeles, Quick 19-13-2 (18-17).
A—18,118 (18,118). T—2:24.

Monday
Stars 3, Sabres 2
Buffalo 1, 0-1-2
Dallas 3, 0-2-1-3

First Period—1, Buffalo, Ennis 15 (Staford, Moulson), 17:17.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Jo-Benn 3 (Whitney, Seguin), 1:30. 3, Dallas, Goligoski 3 (Horcoff, Garbutt), 12:54.
Third Period—4, Buffalo, Ennis 16 (Moulton, McBain), 5:25. 5, Dallas, Chiasson 10 (Ja-Benn, Whitney), 10:25 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 5-9-9-23. Dallas 16-11-12-39.
Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 1; Dallas 1 of 6.
Goals—Buffalo, Enroth 3-13-5 (39 shots-36 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 24-16-10 (23-21).
A—14,235 (18,532). T—2:27.

Monday
Blue Jackets 2, Maple Leafs 1
Columbus 0, 0-2-0
Toronto 0, 0-1-1

First Period—1, Columbus, Prout 1 (MacKenzie, Calverly), 9:44. 2, Columbus, Anisimov 15 (Nikitin, Foligno), 12:38.
Second Period—3, Toronto, Raymond 17 (Lupul, Reilly), 15:45.
Shots on Goal—Columbus 8-12-13-33. Toronto 12-5-12-29.
Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 1; Toronto 0 of 2.
Goals—Columbus, Bobrovsky 22-15-3 (29 shots-28 saves). Toronto, Reimer 10-7-1 (33-31).
A—19,577 (18,819). T—2:26.

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Dallas 3, 0-2-1-3

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Metropolitan Division				
GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Pittsburgh	62	32	24	67
Philadelphia	62	32	24	67
N.Y. Rangers	62	32	24	67
Washington	62	32	24	67
Carolina	62	32	24	67
N.Y. Islanders	62	32	24	67
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Monday
Stars 3, Sabres 2
Buffalo 1, 0-1-2
Dallas 3, 0-2-1-3

First Period—1, Buffalo, Ennis 15 (Staford, Moulson), 17:17.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Jo-Benn 3 (Whitney, Seguin), 1:30. 3, Dallas, Goligoski 3 (Horcoff, Garbutt), 12:54.

GOLF

Tiger's road to Augusta begins with limp

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — The last time Tiger Woods quit in the middle of a round because of an injury, he won his next tournament. And then he followed that with his highest score ever in the Masters, the ultimate measure of Woods these days.

Now what? Making predictions about the world's No. 1 player is like gauging the wind at Amen Corner. You're bound to get it wrong for three reasons:

- Only an athlete knows how badly he is hurt.
- Golf is too unpredictable under the best of times.
- He's Tiger Woods.

Television analyst Johnny Miller erred right at the start of the year when he was talking about which players might have big years. He stopped short of naming a list of players because of reason No. 2. And then he added this nugget:

"It was pretty easy to predict Tiger there for a while," Miller said.

These days, about all anyone can safely predict about Woods is that he'll wear a red shirt on Sunday.

Assuming he makes it to Sunday.

In two starts on the PGA Tour this year, Woods is measured by letters instead of numbers. He had an "MDF" at Torrey Pines, which is the tour's acronym for players who miss the 54-hole cut. And he had a "WD" at the Honda Classic when he withdrew after 13 holes in the final round on Sunday.

The question now is how long he will be MIA.

The leaders were finishing up the front nine when attention shifted from the golf course to the PGA National parking lot that suddenly was swarming with police. About two dozen reporters and photographers were waiting for Woods. He finally showed up in a white passenger van, changed out of his shoes and then was driven off in a black Mercedes-Benz to his home just north on Jupiter Island.

Just like last time — just like always — only Woods knows the amount of the pain and the degree of the injury.

He said through spokesman Glenn Greenspan that he felt "lower back problems with spasms" as he was warming up Sunday morning. On the third hole, he hit a tee shot so far to the right that it wound up in a water hazard to the left of the sixth green. And when he played the sixth hole, he pulled his tee shot into the water. Six holes into the final round, Woods already was 5 over for the day and 12 shots out of the lead.

He said he would get treatment every day to "calm it down." As for playing next week at Doral, he said he would wait until Thursday to see how it feels.

The Blue Monster is more blue than ever after a redesign ordered by new owner Donald Trump.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Tiger Woods' status for Doral is in question after he pulled out of last weekend's tournament with back spasms.

Woods is the defending champion at the Cadillac Championship, though the course where he has won four times is not what it used to be.

But this isn't about whether he can play Doral or Bay Hill two weeks later, or how he will fare at Augusta National next month. The injuries are starting to pile up since he returned from the chaos in his personal life.

Woods had two WDs on his professional record through 2009. One was at Pebble Beach in 1998 when he chose not to return after a six and a half-month rain delay to finish. The other was in 2006 at Riviera when he made the cut and then withdrew the next morning with the flu.

Now he has four in the last five

years. He left after six holes of the final round at The Players Championship in 2010 because of a bulging disk in his neck. He went into the final round 10 shots out of the lead. A year later, he quit after nine holes and 42 strokes at The Players because of a leg injury. He didn't return for three months.

Woods' didn't finish the final round at Doral in 2012 because of his Achilles tendon (and then he won at Bay Hill two weeks later).

And now he starts out 2014 by having to pull out of another tournament.

That's five straight years when a season has been interrupted by injury. He didn't withdraw last year, though he missed his own AT&T National and a scheduled start at The Greenbrier Classic

because of a left elbow strain.

Sunday at the Honda Classic was not his first issue with lower back pain.

He said the feelings were the same as they were at The Barclays last summer, when he dropped to his knees after one shot in the final round. He finished out that round in a tie for second, one shot behind Adam Scott.

He didn't finish among the top 10 the rest of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Then again, he went 4-1 and earned the most points at the Presidents Cup. He tied for third in Turkey. He lost in a playoff to Zach Johnson at his 18-man World Challenge.

How much did the back pain linger? Only Woods knows.

GUTS-GLORY



RAM





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NBA

Around the NBA

Do buyout deals upset competitive balance?

Clause allows unhappy veteran players to force release, join contending teams

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

Buyout season helps the NBA's rich get richer. The remainder of the schedule will determine if they actually got better.

With Danny Granger signing with the Clippers and Caron Butler with Oklahoma City, teams that were already good were able to add former All-Stars without having to give up anything except a little money.

It sometimes even seems unfair, since just a few days earlier adding players would've cost asets if teams wanted to improve via trade before the deadline.

"Buyouts at this point of the

season are not good for the game. They strengthen better teams & further destroy competitive balance," former NBA player and current ESPN analyst Jalen Rose wrote on Twitter.

The buyouts usually start as soon as the deadline is over, when the agent of an unhappy veteran who didn't get moved — or in Granger's case, moves somewhere he doesn't want to go — works out a deal in which the player agrees to leave some money on the table in exchange for his release.

As long it's done by March 1 and he clears waivers, he's free to sign with any team except the one that released him and would be eligible to suit up for that team in the playoffs.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

The Clippers strengthened their bench by adding forward Danny Granger after he forced a buyout from the Philadelphia 76ers.



JEFF HAYNES/AP

Bulls guard Jimmer Fredette joined the team Sunday after forcing a buyout from Sacramento. Some feel the buyout clause gives better teams an unfair advantage over the league's also-rans.

The Clippers picked up Granger and Glen "Big Baby" Davis that way. Jimmer Fredette signed with Chicago on Sunday, and Metta World Peace remains available.

Indiana coach Frank Vogel thinks the Clippers got "dramatically better" with Granger. But tinkering this late in a season can be tricky, and not everyone is sure it's best.

"They're adding pieces. With adding pieces, sometimes you can add too much, so I wouldn't fall in love with every move that's made," Warriors coach Mark Jackson said. "Sometimes the best move is no move at all."

Here are five things to watch this week:

1 Collins comes home: More than a week after signing a 10-day contract and becoming the NBA's first openly gay player, Jason Collins makes his home debut Monday when Brooklyn hosts Chicago. Then the Nets will have to decide if they want to give the veteran another contract.

2 Touring Texas: The Miami Heat, who have won seven in a row, face a couple of big challenges in Texas, visiting Houston on Tuesday be-



JEFFREY PHELPS/AP

The Nets' Jason Collins will make his home debut when Brooklyn hosted the Chicago Bulls last night.

fore heading to San Antonio for another NBA Finals rematch on Thursday.

3 Challengers chasing: Nobody in the East is catching Indiana or Miami, but the race for third place

in the much-maligned conference has turned into a good one. Chicago has won nine of 10 to tie Toronto at 33-26, while Washington is two games back after six straight victories.

4 Makings of a mismatch: Philadelphia has lost 14 straight, its longest skid since dropping 15 in a row in 1994, and its next game is Tuesday at Oklahoma City, where the West-leading Thunder are 25-6.

5 Rudy! Rudy! Rudy Gay returns to Toronto on Friday for the first time since the Raptors traded him to Sacramento on Dec. 9. The forward has played well for the Kings but the Raptors have been terrific without him, going 25-14 since the deal.

Stat Line Of The Week: Goran Dragic, Phoenix: career-high 40 points, 14 of 21 from the field, 9 of 11 from the free throw line in a 116-104 victory over New Orleans on Friday. Dragic, having one of the best seasons of any player who didn't make the All-Star game, made it even better while logging 42 minutes on a night he wasn't sure he could play because of a sore right ankle.

MLB

Expanded replay passes first tests

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Challenged for the first time under Major League Baseball's expanded replay system, umpires got it right.

The umpire went 3-for-3 on Monday as MLB tried out the new



format at three spring training games. The first test came at 3:06 p.m. EST in Port Myers, Fla., after first base umpire Fieldin Culbreth ruled Toronto shortstop Munenori Kawasaki's throw pulled Jared Goedert off the bag in the sixth inning.

"I'm not too sure that you're not right here," Culbreth said. Blue Jays manager John Gibbons told him, "but since we haven't done it before, let's go take a look."

Culbreth answered: "OK. That's what it's for."

After 2 minutes, 34 seconds, replay umpire Brian O'Nora relayed his call by headset, confirming that Minnesota batter Chris Rahl was safe. During the wait, Rahl said he realized he perhaps was part of history.

"It's kind of funny. I was thinking, 'Is this the first one?'" he said.

O'Nora made the final ruling from a satellite truck outside the stadium. During the regular season, umpires on the field will check with the replay booth in New York, where an MLB umpire will make the final call.

Later in the game, Culbreth rotated and took a turn in the truck, confirming another safe call at first base.

"I'm looking at this thing as, this is the future of the game. And I'm going to treat these games here the same way that I'm going to treat them during the regular season."

Fieldin Culbreth
Major League umpire

In the eighth inning, Doug Bernier of the Twins was called safe on a close play at first. As Culbreth studied the replay, the ballpark sound system played a Rolling Stones song with the familiar lyric, "I can't get no satisfaction."

Extra replay also was in place for two games in Arizona — the Los Angeles Angels vs. Arizona Diamondbacks in Scottsdale and the Chicago Cubs against Milwaukee in Phoenix.

Each team in the majors will have at least five exhibition games with the new system in place.

In January, owners approved the use of additional video replay to review most calls other than balls-and-strikes. Previously, umpires could only go to replay to review homers and boundary calls.

Moments after the first replay call, Angels manager Mike Scioscia wasted little time in using his challenge.

In the top of the second, Luis Jimenez of the Angels tried to steal second. Catcher Bobby Wilson's throw was high but second base umpire Bill Miller ruled that Aaron Hill tagged the runner out.

Scioscia bounded out of the dugout and charged toward Miller to argue, just like managers always have done.

Instead, though, he chose to use his challenge. After two of the umpires made a quick visit to the Angels dugout to communicate with the replay umpire, the call was upheld.

"We weren't trying to make a mockery out of it," Scioscia said of using the challenge so soon. "We thought it was a pretty close play."

That review took 2:31.

Since he lost the challenge, Scioscia had no more. Under the new rules, each manager has one challenge. If the first challenge is successful, the manager gets a second. From the seventh inning on, if the manager is out of challenges, the umpire can decide to have the play reviewed.

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire and Arizona's Kirk Gibson did not use their challenge. Neither did Cubs manager Rick Renner nor the Brewers' Ron Roenicke.

Gibson said he thought about contesting a close play when Paul Goldschmidt nearly beat out a grounder, but said he decided it was 50-50 and not worth it.

For the Angels-Diamondbacks game, the replay trailer was set up in the parking lot behind center field. Teams are allowed to have a person to watch the game on television and advise the managers via phone whether it would be worth it for the call to be challenged.

The Angels communicated via walkie talkie Monday, but there will be a dedicated phone line for each team in major league parks. Some critics of expanded replay worried that challenges would delay the game too much. Culbreth said he didn't think that would be a problem and pointed at the benefits.

"It will work itself out. I think time really isn't going to be an issue in the end," he said. "And if it is, it's about getting the play right in the end, anyhow."



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

The Detroit Tigers' Austin Jackson, center, celebrates with teammates Andy Dirks, left, and Jordan Lennerton after the three players scored on a double by teammate Nick Castellanos during the first inning of an exhibition game against the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday in Clearwater, Fla.

New Tigers manager Ausmus faced with lineup decisions

By NOAH TRISTER

The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Austin Jackson has already bounced around the batting order a bit at spring training, hitting fifth, sixth and even fourth for the Detroit Tigers.

That one start in the cleanup spot — in a split-squad game last week — amused the fleet-footed center fielder a bit.

"If I'm hitting fourth, I think we might have some problems," Jackson said.

Jackson may not expect to hit cleanup during the regular season, but at this point it's not clear where he'll end up in the lineup. He's hit almost exclusively in the leadoff spot in his first four major league seasons, but the Tigers now have other potential options for the top of the order. New manager Brad Ausmus hasn't tipped his hand about his plans, although he did say Jackson will probably hit higher in the order at some point this spring.

"Sometimes it's about getting guys at-bats in spring training," Ausmus said.

Jackson hit leadoff in 2013, followed by Turrion Hunter, Miguel Cabrera, Prince Fielder and Victor Martinez. When those five players were in the lineup, that was generally the order, and it wasn't until the postseason that manager Jim Leyland made a major switch, dropping the slumping Jackson to eighth during the AL championship series against Boston.

Leyland stepped down after the season and was replaced by Ausmus, and Detroit made a blockbuster trade, sending Fielder to Texas in exchange for second baseman Ian Kinsler. That gave the Tigers another potential lead-off hitter while removing Fielder's powerful bat.

"I think anybody on this team, honestly, can hit anywhere. We're all capable of doing anything that we're called upon to do."



Austin Jackson
Detroit Tigers center fielder

The switch-hitting Martinez seems likely to bat cleanup now, behind Cabrera. But who would hit in front of those two remains an open question.

Jackson stole eight bases last year, which was enough for the team lead — but Ausmus wants a more aggressive approach on the bases this season. Kinsler, a two-time 30-30 man, stole 15 bases in 2013 while posting an on-base percentage of .344. Jackson's was .337.

The Tigers also signed outfielder Rajai Davis, who stole 45 bases in 51 attempts last year with Toronto. That's 10 more than Detroit's entire team stole in 2013.

The question is whether Davis can hit well enough to justify a spot high in the order. His career on-base percentage against left-handers is .354, but it's 57 points lower against righties.

Ausmus is sensitive to the idea that players like to develop a routine — but he also reserves the right to be flexible with the batting order throughout the season.

"It's a performance-based

game, so you might have to adjust," Ausmus said. "Everyday players generally ... they like to see their name in that same spot, but that doesn't mean there won't be adjustments."

For Ausmus, there's no rush to make any long-term decisions about the lineup. Spring training is a time to experiment — and also to try combinations that would probably never see the light of day during the regular season.

For example, Ausmus says he might hit Martinez leadoff at some point. Martinez is Detroit's designated hitter, but it's possible he might go back behind the plate and catch a bit during the spring.

"If Victor Martinez is going to catch at some point, you may see Victor hit leadoff because I don't want him catching too many innings the first time he's out there, but I want him to get a couple at-bats," Ausmus said. "You may see Victor hit leadoff or second, just because we want to get the at-bats in a short amount of time."

For Jackson, he doesn't sound anxious for any clarification on where he'll hit this year. He just wants to be in the lineup.

"I think anybody on this team, honestly, can hit anywhere," he said. "We're all capable of doing anything that we're called upon to do."

MLB

Astros prospect details addiction struggles

Singleton aims to make roster after kicking pot

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Jon Singleton is considered the top first-base prospect in baseball — a big, dynamic left-handed hitter with power and composure who can use the entire field.

He's one of the players expected to help the Houston Astros back to respectability after three straight 100-loss seasons.

All that despite a couple of significant setbacks. And for the first time publicly, he's opening up about his battle with an addiction to marijuana and moonlighting stay at a rehabilitation center.

"At this point it's pretty evident to me that I'm a drug addict," he told The Associated Press over breakfast on a recent day near the Astros' camp. "I don't openly tell everybody that, but it's pretty apparent to myself."

Vividly so.

"I know that I enjoy smoking weed, I enjoy being high and I can't block that out of my mind that I enjoy that," he said. "So I have to work against that."

Hours after the AP story moved, the Astros released a statement and commended Singleton.

"We applaud Jon for the courage he has shown in tackling this issue head on. He has displayed a great deal of maturity and commitment over the past year and has the full support of the Astros organization," the team said. "He is on the right track for his baseball career, and more importantly, for his life. We are very proud of Jon."

Singleton had steadfastly avoided discussing the subject for more than a year. But on this morning, he shared his story with disarming candor and ease, never once bristling at the increasingly prying questions.

The 6-foot-2, 235-pound Singleton — he's listed as Jonathan, but says he prefers Jon — sits up straight in a small booth, adjusts the baseball cap he's wearing backward and fills in the details of his private struggle.

The 22-year-old says he has stopped using marijuana and is better now. He's

determined to rebound from a season that was all but lost because of his addiction and make his major league debut.

General manager Jeff Luhnow said Singleton could start the season with the Astros, but it's too early to know for sure. Singleton has been playing in the big league spring training games, and went 0-for-2 Monday in a 4-0 win over Miami.

"He's still young and still learning both about baseball and about life," Luhnow said.

It's no secret that Singleton, acquired by Houston from the Phillies in the 2011 trade for Hunter Pence, has had issues with marijuana. He was suspended for the first 50 games of last season for a second offense failed drug test.

His first positive test came in June 2012 and he said he quit using marijuana for the rest of the season. He went on to hit .284 with 21 homers and 79 RBIs in his first season in Double-A.

At season's end, he went to the Arizona Fall League and quickly fell back into old habits.

He knew his situation was dire when he failed a second test in December 2012, but he continued to get high every single day.

The 50-game suspension came a month later and he was summoned to Houston to meet with manager Bo Porter and to see a therapist, who evaluated him for addiction. It was evident to him that he needed help.

Singleton was immediately admitted for a monthlong stay at an inpatient rehabilitation center.

"I knew I had a problem," he said. "Even after I failed the second drug test I couldn't stop smoking weed. It was really bad. Me going there was definitely the best move."

He didn't feel that way when he first entered. Fearing the unknown, he says he didn't sleep for three days straight.

"They would turn off the lights at 11:30 and I would just sit there and stare at the ceiling because I couldn't go to sleep,"

"I know that I enjoy smoking weed, I enjoy being high and I can't block that out of my mind that I enjoy that."

Jon Singleton
Houston Astros



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Astros first baseman Jon Singleton, right, is hoping to start the season on the team's roster after battling a marijuana addiction that led to a stint at a rehab center.

he said. "My heart was beating too fast. I would get night sweats. It was bad. I legitimately went through withdrawal."

At a time when he should have been getting in shape for spring training and a chance to make Houston's major league roster, he instead spent his days attending classes and therapy sessions with other addicts in a program for young adults.

One thing he didn't do: Dwell on his missed opportunity.

"Not so much, because I knew I got myself into the situation so I had to deal with it," he said. "It wasn't like, 'I got myself here, now I hate myself.' It was like: 'I got myself here so I can't be mad at anybody but myself.'"

Though just 21 when he entered rehab, he'd already had a long history with marijuana, using the drug "on and off" since 14. He blamed his start on the culture growing up in Long Beach, Calif., where he estimated 80 percent of his friends not only knew where to get marijuana, but also how to get it within an hour.

His stint in rehab allowed him to quit using marijuana and he said he hasn't smoked since — a span of more than a year — even though he was moved to Houston's 40-man roster in October and can no longer be tested for the drug.

Last season when he made his debut in Triple-A after stopovers in both Low-A and Double-A following his suspension, he struggled. He hit just .220 in 73 games and his old demons resurfaced.

"I went through some slight anxiety, some depression because I wasn't being successful," he said. "That was definitely difficult and that drove me to drink."

He admits to abusing alcohol as a substitute for marijuana, getting drunk almost every day and "waking up hung over every morning."

After the season he regrouped and prepared for the Puerto Rican winter league.

His changes paid immediate dividends. He hit a league-leading nine homers in Puerto Rico and batted .268.

Singleton reported to camp in good shape and in a better place mentally than last spring, hoping to show Luhnow he's ready to compete for Houston's first-base job.

The team has been supportive during his battle, but Singleton knows he'll have to stay clean to reach his goals.

"Recently I've been more or less just sticking to myself and worrying about what I need to do to get better and become better as a person, not just a baseball player," he said.

Seattle QB Wilson enjoys training with Rangers

By ALAN ESKEW
The Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Russell Wilson has enjoyed spending time with the Texas Rangers. Yet the Seattle Seahawks are never far from the young quarterback's mind.

While Wilson sat in the Texas Rangers dugout Monday, fans yelling "Seahawks" filled the spring training stadium.

"I couldn't expect anything less," Wilson said. "The 12th man fans were unbelievable today. They're everywhere. The 12th man fans are out in the outfield, they're on third-base line, first-base line, chanting 'Seahawks' the whole way. Hopefully the Dallas fans didn't get too mad."

Wilson threw for 3,547 yards and 26 touchdowns and helped the Seattle Seahawks rout the Denver Broncos 43-8 in the Super



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson works out with the Texas Rangers during spring training Monday in Surprise, Ariz.

Bowl last month.

He also happens to be a pretty good baseball player, drafted three times and hitting .229 with a .350 on-base percentage in 93 games in 2010-11 in the low minors in the Colorado Rockies system. But he's had instant success

in the NFL.

"You never say never," Wilson said. "I've always had the dream of playing two sports. If somehow it was a miracle that it could work out, I'd consider it. At the same time, my focus is winning the championship with the Seattle Seahawks and hope to be playing for a long time."

"For me, it's only being my second year, yeah I won a Super Bowl and all that, but that's not enough for me. It really isn't. My goal is to be one of the best quarterbacks to ever play the game, if not the best. I've got a long ways to go. I make sure I get up earlier than Tom Brady and Drew Brees and they're on the East Coast."

The Rangers picked Wilson for \$12,000 in the Rule 5 minor league draft in December. He was in the Rangers' camp Monday took ground balls in morning drills and brought the Rangers

lineup to the umpires before the game, but did not play in the 6-5 loss to Cleveland.

"How much did I want to play an inning?" Wilson said. "How much did I want to play the whole game is the question."

He said he would leave Tuesday for Seattle and "turn my focus back to football."

So what is most difficult, hitting a curveball or being hit by a 300-pound defensive end?

"Hitting a curveball," Wilson said. "The ball is so small. It looks like a pea."

Wilson worked on throws and pivots at second base in a group with young infielders Jurickson Profar, Luis Sardinas and Rougned Odor.

"He surprised me for not being out on the baseball field for a long while," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "I might have burned his legs up a little bit, but

he made it through all the drills and did a fantastic job. He's got tremendous aptitude. That's why he is who he is. You give him something and he knows how to apply it."

Rangers shortstop Elvis Andrus said Wilson is athletic enough to make it in baseball.

"He's got pretty good hands," Andrus said. "I've got to see him hit so I can answer that, but so far what I saw today it was pretty impressive."

The Surprise Stadium shops selling official Major League gear, predominantly displayed Wilson's Rangers No. 3 jersey.

The one on Wilson's back, however, will not be sold.

"The uniform, man, I'm definitely taking this up," Wilson said. "I'm gonna get a few of these and put them up around the house."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Lots left to play for in the Big 12

NCAA tournament seeds in balance as 7 teams battle for positioning

By LUKE MEREDITH
The Associated Press

The only certainties about the Big 12 are that Kansas will finish in first place and Texas Christian will be last.

For everyone else, the final week of the regular season represents a chance to either improve their postseason positioning or win over the NCAA tournament selection committee.

Iowa State, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas State were tied for second place at 10-6 after the weekend's games with the Big 12 tournament set to begin on March 12. Baylor and Oklahoma State sit squarely on the at-large bubble, and even West Virginia has an outside shot at an NCAA tournament bid if it can get hot.

With so much on the line, the last week of Big 12 play could also be the most competitive one.

"Every team has two games left. None of them are easy," Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg said. "It's going to go right down to the wire."

In theory, there doesn't seem to be much of a difference between the second and fifth seeds for the upcoming league tournament. The four teams currently stuck in a second-place logjam will likely get first-round byes and play an NCAA tournament-quality team in the quarterfinals no matter where they're seeded.

But the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds would avoid a potential matchup with Kansas until the championship game.

Oklahoma (21-8) and Kansas State (20-9) held those tiebreakers for the second and third spots on Monday, and the Sooners ap-

peared to be in the best position to keep it. Oklahoma hosts West Virginia (16-13, 8-8) on Wednesday night and closes at TCU (19-19, 0-16) on Saturday.

Should the Sooners win out, they'll clinch the No. 2 seed and perhaps push Lon Kruger's bid to become the Big 12 Coach of the Year over the top.

"He's done a great job with these guys," Kansas coach Bill Self said of Kruger. "It's not a surprise that they're 10-6 in our league. But I think to most people from the outside looking in, if you told people before the season that this is where they'd be I think everybody would agree that Lon and his staff have done a terrific job."

The Longhorns (21-8) are in good shape, too, since they host TCU and finish at Texas Tech (13-16, 5-1).

The path isn't nearly as easy for Iowa State or Kansas State.

The Cyclones (22-6), who on Monday ranked last among the second-place teams because of tiebreakers, get Baylor (19-10, 7-9) on the road and Oklahoma State (19-10, 7-9) at home on Saturday. K-State has the opposite schedule, with Oklahoma State on the road on Monday followed by Baylor at home.

To the Bears and Cowboys, a win over the Cyclones or Wildcats would be a huge boost to their NCAA tournament hopes. Oklahoma State had won three in a row since Marcus Smart returned from his suspension, a stretch that included a 72-65 win over Kansas on Saturday.

Baylor has won five of its last six after a brutal start to Big 12 play.



Sue Oenoch/AP

Oklahoma State wing Markel Brown, right, passes over Kansas center Joel Embiid during the second half of their game on March 1 in Stillwater, Okla. Oklahoma State beat No. 5 Kansas 72-65, giving the Cowboys a much-needed boost in their efforts to solidify a spot in the NCAA tournament.

"How we've approached the last six games has been...we gave ourselves a chance to win. And as long as we're playing, we control our own destiny," said Baylor coach Scott Drew.

Though West Virginia is a somewhat surprising .500 in the league, it's a long way from

NCAA tournament consideration. But the Mountaineers play Oklahoma and host Kansas, and if they sweep those teams they could move into position to an at-large bid.

Such a scenario might sound implausible. But the depth and quality of the Big 12, along with

the huge implications of these final games, figures to make for an interesting end to an entertaining regular season.

"It's a grind because of how good the Big 12 is. It's made every game such a battle that it's made it more difficult. But that's a good thing," Kruger said.

Roundup

N. Carolina holds off Notre Dame for 12th straight win

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Notre Dame's defense was good enough in the second half against North Carolina to give the short-handed Fighting Irish a chance to end the 14th-ranked Tar Heels' long winning streak.

UNC managed nine points through the first 14 minutes of the second half as the Irish rallied from 14 points down to make a game of it, though the Tar Heels did enough late to hold on for a 63-61 victory Monday night. Still, it gave coach Mike Brey a positive to build on as the Irish closed the regular season.

"It was pretty good, wasn't it?" Brey asked of the defense. "We were really good, in position, and played mostly a little bit of diamond-and-1 (that helped us) — but our man-to-man gave us a chance to win it... So there is something, I think, to build on there where we dug in a little bit better defensively."

The Tar Heels won their 12th straight despite matching their season low for a half with 22 points after halftime. They shot 41 percent (9-for-22), committed seven of their 10 turnovers and managed just one second-chance point in the second half. By comparison, UNC shot 50 percent and had 12 second-chance points in the opening 20 minutes.

Coming into the game, Notre Dame ranked 14th in the 15-team league by allowing teams to shoot 44.6 percent from the field.

Notre Dame held North Carolina to one field goal in the first 5½ minutes of the second half as it opened the second half with a 22-5 run that erased the Tar Heels' 14-point lead.

North Carolina's James Michael McAdoo hit the go-ahead shot in the lane with 3:09 left and Marcus Paige blocked Eric Atkins' shot on the final play.

McAdoo finished with 14 points to lead the Tar Heels (23-7, 13-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), who had to fight to the horn in their home finale. It is UNC's longest winning streak since 2008-09.

Atkins scored 21 points for Notre Dame (15-16, 6-12).

Colgate 57, Navy 51: Damon Sherman-Newsome scored 16 points and Ethan Jacobs added 10 with nine rebounds as seventh-seeded and the host Raiders knocked off the Midshipmen in a first-round Patriot League tournament game.

Colgate (13-17) trailed late in the first half, but Jacobs and Luke

Roh each made layups and Matt McMullen hit a three-pointer in between for a 27-21 halftime lead.

Brandon Venturini, who had 26 points, hit a three-pointer early in the second half to pull Navy within in three. The Raiders responded as Roh hit two layups and Sherman-Newsome added a jumper to cap a 10-0 run and led 39-26.

Navy (9-21) cut the gap to two after a jumper by Venturini with 13 seconds left, but Sherman-Newsome and Austin Tillotson each had two free throws to seal it.

Colgate advanced to play No. 2 seed American in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



AJ MASTAP

NASCAR driver Kurt Busch drives down the front straightaway in an Andretti Autosport Indycar during a testing session May 9 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis. Busch and Andretti Autosport announced Tuesday that Busch will try to become the first driver in 10 years to run the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day.

Briefly

Busch going to try 'double'

NASCAR driver competing in Indy 500 and Coca-Cola 600

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kurt Busch and Andretti Autosport announced Tuesday that he will try to become the first driver in 10 years to run the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day.

Busch, the 2004 NASCAR champion, will try to qualify for the Indy 500 in a fifth car for Andretti. Should he make the May 25 race, Busch will then fly to Charlotte Motor Speedway to fulfill his full-time job with Stewart-Haas Racing in NASCAR's longest event of the year.

"I'm a fan of motorsports, a student of motorsports, and I view this as a challenge for myself," Busch said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Memorial Day weekend, the central focus of all motorsports is Monaco, Indianapolis and Charlotte and this is a tremendous opportunity to be right in the middle of it."

Only John Andretti, Tony Stewart and Robby Gordon have attempted the grueling, 1,000-mile "double," and no driver has tried since Gordon in 2004.

Source: Hardy signs tender

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A person familiar with the situation says defensive end Greg Hardy has signed his franchise tag tender with the Carolina Panthers.

The person spoke to The Associated Press

on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the signing has not been made official.

Hardy, who said in January he'd have no issue if the team used the franchise tag to keep him, will make \$13.1 million next season if he doesn't sign a long-term extension before July 15.

In other NFL news:

■ The Jacksonville Jaguars have released veteran guard Uche Nwaneri, who started 63 of the team's last 64 games and didn't miss a snap last season.

Nwaneri was due to make about \$5.9 million in 2014, and cutting him will give the club another \$3.7 million in salary-cap space. Jacksonville has roughly \$60 million in cap space.

Brewer heading to Virginia Tech

Former Texas Tech quarterback Michael Brewer says he will transfer to Virginia Tech, where he can compete to replace Logan Thomas.

"Excited and humbled to announce that I will be attending Virginia Tech," Brewer posted on his Twitter account Sunday. He is set to graduate from Texas Tech in May, so he'll be eligible to play for the Hokies next season.

Virginia Tech could not yet confirm Brewer's decision, but he told The Roanoke (Va.) Times he chose Virginia Tech over Kentucky after visiting Blacksburg, Va., and meeting with Hokies coach Frank Beamer and offen-

sive coordinator Scott Loeffler. The Austin, Texas, native had been restricted from transferring to another Big 12 school by Texas Tech.

In other college football news:

■ North Carolina State offensive tackle Rob Crisp will return after missing nearly all season with a concussion.

Crisp was hurt in the second game. Coach Dave Doeren said Monday that the senior, who hadn't taken a redshirt year, was granted a medical redshirt for last season.

Hossa out 2 to 3 weeks

CHICAGO — Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa will miss two to three weeks after he left Saturday night's 5-1 victory over Pittsburgh with an upper-body injury.

It was unclear when exactly Hossa was injured. He took a hard hit from Penguins forward Craig Adams during Chicago's second power play of the first period at Soldier Field.

The 35-year-old Hossa has 24 goals and 26 assists in 57 games.

In other NHL news:

■ Russian defenseman Dmitry Orlov has been suspended by the NHL for two games for boarding Philadelphia Flyers forward Bryden Schenn.

The suspension, announced on Monday, will cost Orlov \$7,076.92 in salary.

Reins: Is Golson set as starter?

FROM BACK PAGE

knows that. That's why he came back to Notre Dame, because he wants that opportunity. Clearly, he's going to be the guy that drives this for us."

Golson said that's the way he wants it.

"I want to be in front and have that leadership role and lead these guys to victory," he said.

Golson admitted to being a bit too eager Monday, blaming that for some inaccurate passes early. But he said he believes he returns to school as a better quarterback because he's more mature and polished after spending two months training with quarterbacks coach George Whitfield in San Diego.

One of the things Whitfield changed about Golson is how he grips the ball. He now has his hands on the laces, like most other quarterbacks, which he previously didn't. He also weighs 15 pounds more than when he left and appears more muscular. Golson said he believes he returns a bit faster and hopes the added muscle will make him more durable.

Kelly said the biggest improvement he sees in Golson is a "conceptual awareness" — a better understanding — of the offense.

"It's an easier conversation for him. The best way to explain it would be, when he would explain his progression, it might take him 10 seconds. Well, you've got 2.6 seconds to throw the ball," Kelly said. "Now he's precise in his communication as to what his progression is. That tells me a lot. He's definitely made some strides."

Golson said what he missed most last season was working with his teammates. Watching last season's opener against Temple on television from Chicago was the low point.

"That's when it really hit me, that you're not there anymore," he said. "I went through the whole process of at first feeling humiliated, for one, to then coming back around to where I am now of being back here and being ready to go."

Golson wouldn't comment on the reason he was suspended from school for the fall semester. He previously told Sports Illustrated in an interview last year it was because of "poor judgment on a test."

"I haven't received any animosity or anything like that. That's from my classmates to my professors to my teammates and everything. They've been very accepting of me," he said.

Kelly was pleased with how quickly Golson seemed to settle back in.

"It was really exciting for me to watch him get back in there and look as though he was with us last year," he said.

SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Taking the reins again

Golson ready to lead Irish after missing 2013 season

By TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The first day of spring practice was a bit surreal for Notre Dame quarterback Everett Golson.

It had nothing to do with the 4 below zero temperature outside when the Fighting Irish took the field inside at 7:30 a.m. Monday. It had everything to do with that fact he was putting on his gold Notre Dame helmet and red practice jersey for the first time since being suspended from school last May for academic impropriety.

"I felt accomplished for a split moment, that I went through what I went through, and now I'm back," he said. "I'm moving forward now and still continuing that process of trying to grind and be better."

The Irish are expecting the 6-foot, 200-pound quarterback to be better than he

was in 2012, when he helped Notre Dame get to the national championship game by finishing the regular season undefeated for the first time since winning its last national title in 1956. Golson was 187-for-318 passing, a 58.8 completion rate, with 12 touchdown passes and six interceptions as the Irish went 12-1, losing 42-14 to Alabama in the championship game. He also ran for 298 yards on 94 carries.

Coach Brian Kelly, who has repeatedly said he expects Malik Zaire to challenge Golson for the starter's job, on Monday sounded as though Golson would start.

"I think we all know college football and where it is, the quarterback is really going to be the centerpiece of this offense in the way we run. It's going to fall on him. Today was a very good today for him in a first day," Kelly said. "We're going to heap a lot on this kid's shoulders, and he

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PHOTOS BY JAMES BROSHEN, SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE/AP

Notre Dame quarterback Everett Golson returned to the football team Monday after serving a suspension during the fall semester for "poor judgment on a test."

61 points
Heat's James enjoys
career night | **NBA, Page 27**

"I want to be in front and have that leadership role and lead these guys to victory."

Everett Golson
Notre Dame quarterback



Seahawks' Wilson gives baseball a try

MLB, Page 29

Ruff's 600th win comes against Sabres

NHL, Page 24

